

SVEN ERIC SCHMIDT 1928

Whitey Smith's Majestic Hotel Orchestra: Sven Eric "Whitey Smith" Schmidt, bells/voc/dir/cmp. Unknown, tpt. Unknown, tpt. Jeff Anderson, trb/lyr. Jess Sommers, clt/sop/alt/cmp. Unknown clt/sop/alt. Unknown, clt/sop/ten. Unknown 2 vlins. Jimmy Elder, pno. Russell Ellis, bjo/gtr/uke. Robert Kauff, sbs/bbs. Poss. Sergei "Serge" Ermolaeff, dms. Unknown Chinese female, voc (02083 only). Unknown Chinese male, vln (02083 only).

Shanghai, July 31, 1928

XVE-02082-1	She Wonders Why (voc WS/cmp JS/lyr JA)	Victor 21790
XVE-02082-2	She Wonders Why	Unissued
XVE-02082-3	She Wonders Why	Unissued
XVE-02083-1	The Chinese Wedding	Destroyed
XVE-02083-2	The Chinese Wedding (cmp WS/voc UCf)	Victor 21790

NOTE: The unknown 2 trumpets and 2 saxophones may be Arthur Carnaro, George Muggery, John Trumbull and Lion Stauffer - they were long time members of the Smith band, but it is not known which instrument they played. Jeff Anderson is most likely the trombone player - if this is not the case, he is one of the other instrumentalists. The names of the violinists are not verified, however, newsreels from the late 20'ties reveal that the band at that time included a couple of violinists on regular basis. Around this time, Whitey Smith might have used Ermolaeff (a russian refugee) as relief drummer, since Smith himself directed/fronted the band (in his memoirs, Ermolaeff remembers working for Smith).

Whitey Smith stumbled upon the Chinese female singer and male violinist in a department store (where they were employed to perform). To create a Chinese mood intro for 02083, he hired them to do the studio recording with his band. A month after the release and after a thousand records were sold, Smith found out that the Chinese assistants had actually copied their material from an old Jewish song, so he had to recall the remaining stock (handing it over to a local record company) due to violated rights. Within short time a sign in the local company's shop window announced, "Buy one of our records and receive one of Whitey Smith's free!"

According to Smith, the correct title for 02083 is "A Chinese Wedding". Another source indicates that Whitey Smith as well as Jimmy Elder, J. Meredith and Jeff Anderson wrote this tune. Meredith may be one of the unknown musicians.

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Shanghai, August 3, 1928

XVE-02102-1	To a Wild Rose	Victor 21789
XVE-02102-2	To a Wild Rose	Destroyed
XVE-02102-3	To a Wild Rose	Destroyed
XVE-02103-1	Night Time in Old Shanghai	Unissued
XVE-02103-2	Night Time in Old Shanghai	Unissued
XVE-02103-3	Night Time in Old Shanghai (voc WS)	Victor 21789

NOTE: Reports have it that Victor recorded exclusively in Harbin, however, the record labels clearly state recording location to be Shanghai. Smith's own relating of the event indicates this to be correct.

As per Whitey Smith himself, in the late 20'ties he also made several Chinese records - unbreakable cardboard records à la the Durium label. "My band made a record now and then for local companies too. Once in a while, I would even write a little tune and if it went over, I made a recording of it." None traced so far - labels would be in the Chinese language.

According to Whitey Smith, the correct title of 02103 is "When It's Night Time in Dear Old Shanghai and I Am Dancing, Sweetheart, with You". Composer/lyricist probably Jess Sommers and Jeff Anderson.

Victor 21789 sold in many thousand copies to the Chinese. Later it became part of the 'Magic Carpet Series' (which was probably for Army use - 'Magic Carpet' was the codeword for the overseas demobilization program).

