AXEL CHRISTENSEN 1912-27

Axel Christensen: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

Chicago?, July 1912

100005 Cauldron Rag QRS (piano roll)

NOTE: Possibly also recorded around this time "La Reine Annette - Ragtime Waltz" (QRS 100011), likely of no interest.

AXEL CHRISTENSEN: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

New York Recording Laboratories, prob. 1140 Broadway, New York, c. January/February, 1923

1303-1 CAULDRON RAG/ STAR and GARTER WALTZ (Rag – In My Racing Car)(cmp AWC) Paramount 20218, Triangle 11239, Claxtonola 40218, Broadway 11239, Puritan 11239, Famous 3212, National 12218

NOTE: Puritan/Triangle pressed by Bridgeport Die & Machine Company. Paramount 20218 most likely also released on Puritan 11218 (NYRL). Matrix 1302-1, "OLD BLACK JOE and AULD LANG SYNE", is also by Christensen but probably of less interest/released on same labels as above.

In Malcolm Shaw/Mainspring Press 2002, 1303 is entered as "Christensen Medley" and listed by matrix 1302, which is incorrect. Original sheet music for "Cauldron Rag" was published by Christensen School of Popular Music, 1909.





AXEL CHRISTENSEN: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

General Phonograph Corporation, 227-229 West Washington Street, Chicago, October/November, 1923

8501-A TEASING THE KLASSICS (cmp AWC) Okeh 4973, Parlophone E5179

NOTE: This side sometimes listed as "TEASING THE CLASSICS" - correct title "TEASING THE KLASSICS" as published by F.J.A. Forster Music Publisher, 1923. Reverse side "THE GIRL I KISSED ON THE STAIRS" (matrix 8500) of no interest.







? Teasing The Klassics (cmp AWC)
41878 Mindin' My Bus'ness
? Blue Bird Blues
QRS M-615270 (piano roll)
U.S.Music (piano roll)
U.S.Music (piano roll)

NOTE: QRS erroneously labelled Alex Christensen - catalogue number probably from a later reprint.

Axel Christensen: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

Chicago?, c. May 1924

? Lonely Little Wallflower
? TEASING THE KLASSICS (cmp AWC)
U.S.Music (piano roll)
U.S.Music 11398 (piano roll)

NOTE: Also cut at this time "Love of My Dreams - Waltz", likely of no interest. Doc Cook's Dreamland Orchestra waxed "Lonely Little Wallflower" in January 1924 - except for a Sam Lanin version, there are no further recordings of this tune. Cook and Christensen had offices in the same Chicago-building.



AXEL CHRISTENSEN: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

Marsh Laboratories Inc., 308 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, c. April-July, 1925

846-2 TEASING THE CLASSICS (cmp AWC)

CHRISTENSEN RECORD, Paramount 20173, Famous 3167, Broadway 11199, Harmograph 2505, Puritan 11173, 11199, Triangle 11173, 11199, Belvedere 11199

NOTE: CHRISTENSEN RECORD is an unnumbered private issue (for teaching purposes. On one side the label reads: "Learn to Play the Christensen Way". On the other: "Distributed by the Christensen School of Popular Music, 20 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois") – both sides with picture label.

Correct title "Teasing the Klassics" as published by F.J.A. Forster Music Publisher, 1923. Reverse on CHRISTENSEN RECORD, "THE GIRL I KISSED ON THE STAIRS" (847-2, same releases), of no interest. Some sources state recording to be in New York either c. August 30, 1921, September 1921 (Ross Laird), or c. December 1922 - since music not published until 1923, the earlier recording dates seem possible, yet unlikely. Same take used for CHRISTENSEN RECORD as well as the commercial labels. In Malcolm Shaw/Mainspring Press 2002, "TEASING..." is listed by matrix 847-2, which is incorrect.

During 1924-25, Paramount (New York Recording Laboratories) contracted its Chicago sessions to Marsh Laboratoires. As is the case here, Broadway, Famous, Puritan, and Triangle often used Paramount masters for their releases. Puritan 11173 pressed by NYRL while Puritan 11199/Triangle/Belvedere pressed by Bridgeport Die & Machine Company.



















Axel Christensen: Axel Waldemar Christensen, pno.

Marsh Laboratories Inc., 308 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, December, 1927

20242-2 Walking Blues (cmp AWC/J. Blythe) Paramount 20603, Broadway 1161 Walking Blues (cmp AWC/J. Blythe) Unissued, single sided test exists 20243-2 Syncophonic (cmp AWC) Paramount 20603, Broadway 1161

NOTE: Guido van Rijn thinks that these recordings were not made until January 1928; other sources state December

Based on above stated date, these sides were recorded moments before Meade Lux Lewis waxed his famous "Honky Tonk Train Blues", matrix No. 20246, so no doubt - although a lot less juicy – Christensen's boogie woogie patterns were inspired by a most original trendsetter (plus indeed "Jimmy" James Blythe with whom Christensen established a close cooperation). Lewis most likely recorded one more side, either matrix 20245 or 20247, which has yet to surface.

Take -3 of Walking Blues is reported by Jim Prohaska/Alex van der Tuuk/Helge Thygesen. "Syncophonic" originally published 1925 by Christensen School of Popular Music. AWC wrote a suite "Syncophonic #1-5" and it is not revealed which part was used for the recording (compared with sheet music, #1 qualifies). Other recordings by AWC are likely to be of very little or no interest.

Paramount (NYRL) contracted its Chicago recording sessions to Marsh Laboratories during several periods, the last one starting around early 1927 and ending early 1929.







The below Axel Christensen recordings are recitals with piano acc., of no interest:



Other recitals recorded for Paramount in February 1927 (no interest): "Axel at the Baseball Game" (matrix 20367), "Axel Receives a Letter" (matrix 20368), "Axel and the Ducks" (matrix 20369), and "Axel Pleases and Surprises" (matrix 20370).