

RAGTIME IN DENMARK c. 1902-14

The first recordings (released in cylinder format) in Denmark - which can reasonably be termed 'ragtime' or at least sort of a forerunner to this rhythmic music style - were solely recorded by Dansk Fonograf Magasin. One or maybe two other smaller companies existed yet probably did not record other artists than (classical) singers.

In the beginning only Cat.No., Matrix No., and Tune Title appeared from cylinder edge/box lid - no artist name. Later on, tune title and orchestra name were vocally announced prior to the recording itself. Consequently most of the early ragtime-characterized recordings are by unknown artists/orchestras.

The below titles are believed (yet not verified) to be of interest, and should therefore not be considered a complete or definitive listing.

Bands used for the 'ragtime' recordings were presumably Gardehusar Regimentets Musikkorps, or Artilleri Regimentets Musikkorps (less likely), or DFM's Harmony Orchestra (a studio band picked up from session to session as per the instrumental needs, and all participating musicians probably related to other regular bands based within the Copenhagen area).

It seems, however, that Den kgl. Livgardes Musikkorps has not been involved with this kind of activities (likely due to its Royal status).

Due to the general production process all Pathé releases are dubbings. The dubbings may be further marred by the machinery noise, since that noise could not be separated from the recording itself during the dubbing process. Thus, when new stocks were produced of the same recording, due to more or less smooth running of machinery, the noise level may differ from record to record according to the pressing version in question.

A short historical outline of Dansk Fonograf Magasin is available at the end of the discography.

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ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Poss. Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, c. 1902.

?	After the Ball	Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 029, Pathéfon D ??
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NOTE: DFM brown wax cylinder series; cylinder known in both standard and salon sizes. In 1904 also transferred to DFM 100000-series. The Pathéphon disc couples 029/030, reverse (Den Kgl. Danske Livgarde) of no interest. The brown wax cylinder (prob. hand cut) sizes were, Standard, ø 5 centimetres. Salon, ø 9 centimetres. The Pathéphon (paper label) disc sizes were. ø 25 or 27 centimetres.

ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation. Julius Rozsa, dir.

Poss. Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, c. 1903.

? Down South Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 180

NOTE: DFM brown wax cylinder series; cylinder known in standard size.

ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1905.

? Down South Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100064

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series (moulded); cylinder known in both standard and salon sizes.

ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1905.

? Hiawatha Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100078

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series; cylinder known in both standard and salon sizes.

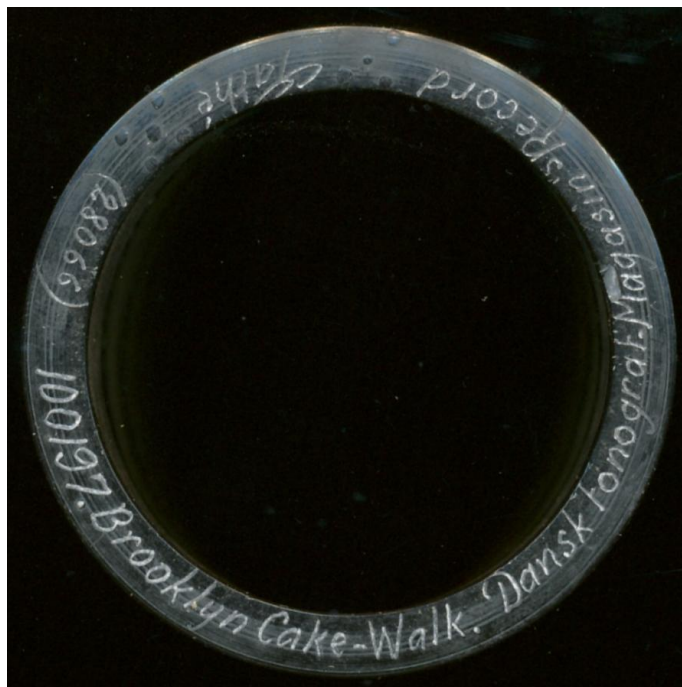
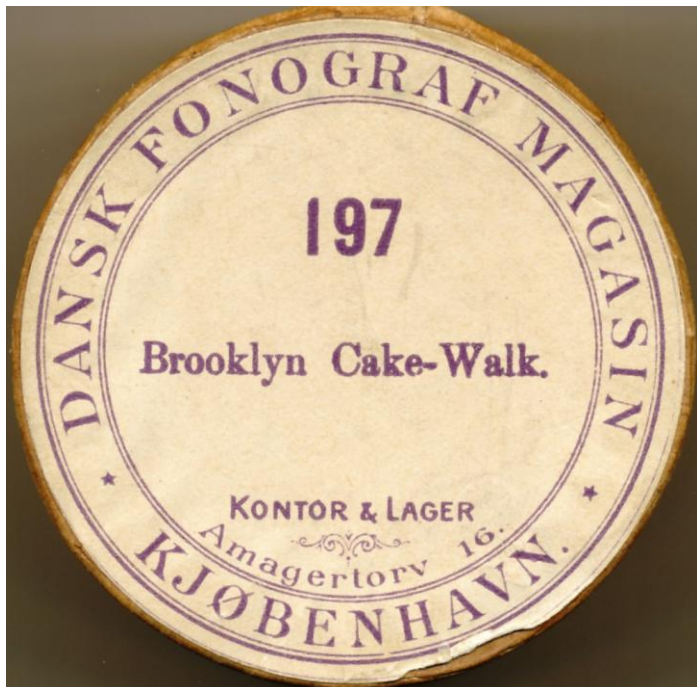
ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1907.

28066 Brooklyn Cake-Walk.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100197

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series; cylinder known in both standard and salon sizes. This cylinder ex. Tony Franzén's collection. It was generally (yet not always) a normal procedure that the full serial number (for instance 6 digits) appeared in the cylinder edge wax while a shortened serial number (3 digits) appeared from the protecting box lid.



ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1907.

? Negerens drøm

Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100199

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series; cylinder known in standard size.

ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1912.

? Mumblin' Mose

Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100049, Pathéfon D ??

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series; cylinder known in standard size. The Pathéfon disc couples 049/038 (Orkester), reverse side of no interest.

ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, c.1912.

? Très Moutarde, two step

Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 101030, Pathéfon D ??

NOTE: DFM 101000 black wax cylinder series. The Pathéfon disc couples 101030/101023 (Orkester), reverse side of no interest.

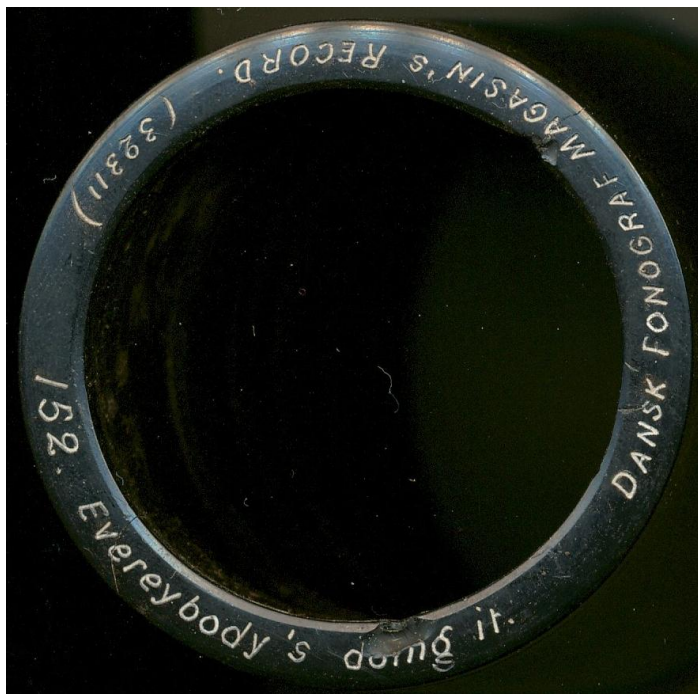
ORKESTER: Unknown personnel/instrumentation.

Dansk Fonograf Magasin, Amagertorv 16, Copenhagen, 1914.

32311 Evereybody's doing it. (sic)

Dansk Fonograf Magasin's Record 100152

NOTE: DFM 100000 black wax cylinder series; cylinder known in standard size. This cylinder ex. Allan Rasmussen's collection.



Cylinder protecting sales box not yet found.

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Dansk Fonograf Magasin was established June 17, 1901, in Copenhagen, by owner Aage Valdemar Svendsen (born Copenhagen May 31, 1866, deceased June 12, 1916).

At the outset, the business was directed from Svendsen's private address, 32 Tordenskjoldsgade. In 1902/03, however, the business was moved to an even more central part of the Copenhagen City area, 16 Amagertorv - a corner building housing offices, store rooms, shop premises, and recording studio. DFM was agent for the phonograph company Pathé (founded by Pathé Frères, 1896), Paris, France.



Vil De tilbringe
en fornøjelig Aften, da køb
de sidste nye
danske Fonograf-Valser.
Hr. Skuespiller Neumann.
Hr. Operasanger Nordal Brun.
Vagtparaden paa Amalienb.
(Indspillet af den kgl. Livgarde)
å 1 Kr. 50 Øre.
Fonografer fra 12 Kr. til 450 Kr.
Hver Uge Nyt.
Dansk Fonograf-Magasin
Tordenskjoldsgade 32, 1. Sal. Telf. 1327.

Left: Tordenskjoldsgade 32. Right: Berlingske Tidende, annonce 20. juni 1901.



Amagertorv 16 (house built in the 1860'ties and demolished 1923)



Originally built in the 1860'ties (corner of Niels Hemmingsensgade and Amagertorv), demolished in 1923.

The Pathé disc format was introduced from about 1906. Until 1926, cylinders and discs were definitively using the "hill-and-dale" groove system. In 1926, when Pathé changed to the lateral cut groove system, the disc label "Actuelle" was introduced. A few Danish recordings might have been published on this label, none so far verified. Last releases on the cylinder medium took place in 1917.

On February 20, 1915, DFM was sold to William Johnsen (= William Farre, born August 1, 1874, deceased April 5, 1950) from Kristiania, Norway, share capital DKK 45.000. On February 14, 1916, the company name was changed to William Farre A/S (Ltd.). In 1922, a branch office was established in Aalborg, and in 1924 in Korsør. On the 22nd of December, 1925, Farre went into liquidation.

A shop named "William Farres Efft. v/Rolf Lorentzen" (Succr.) was located at 65 Vesterbrogade, Copenhagen, until 1931.



Vesterbrogade 65 (Westend) in 2015.

Part sources a.o.: Pathé Discography v/Vidar Vanberg, Tony Franzén og Lars Thelander (1998).