

# **Audio recovery and identification of first**

## **Norwegian sound recording**

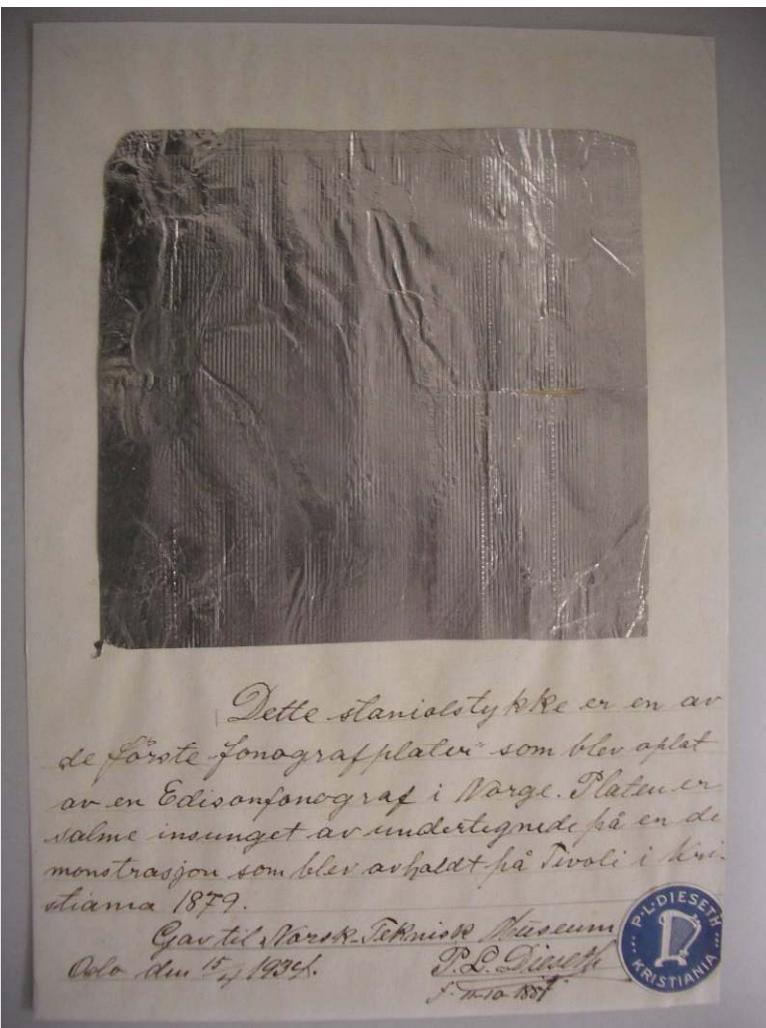
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F Weium

For Slides see e.prints at Southampton  
University

# Summary

- Description of Norwegian tinfoil artefact
- Background and overview of Sound Archive Project at University of Southampton
  - Cylinder and disc media scanning systems
- Scanning process for Norwegian Tin foil recording
- Audio recovery and audio clips
- Unusual features of Norwegian tinfoil
- Forensic investigation using historic records

# Norwegian tinfoil artefact



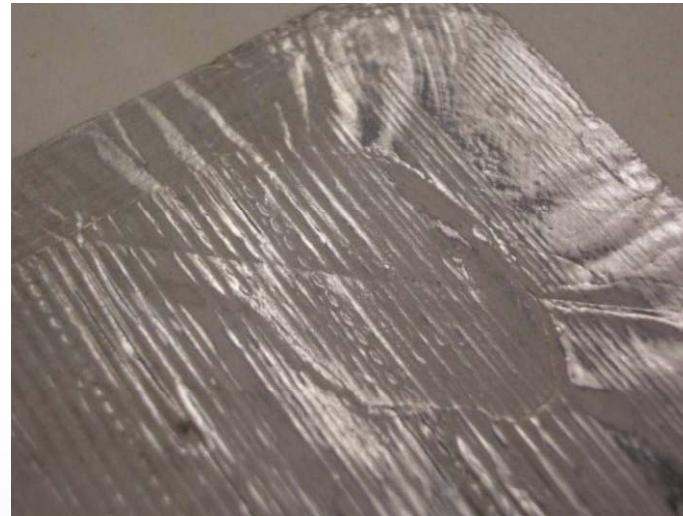
- Tinfoil artefact donated to The Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology in 1936, by Peder Larsen Dieseth
- Inscription indicates that the artefact originated from first sound recording performed in Norway by Dieseth
  - 5th February 1879 by an Edison tinfoil phonograph at the Tivoli in Kristiania
- Tinfoil was glued to a paper mount, making it impossible to play using conventional stylus

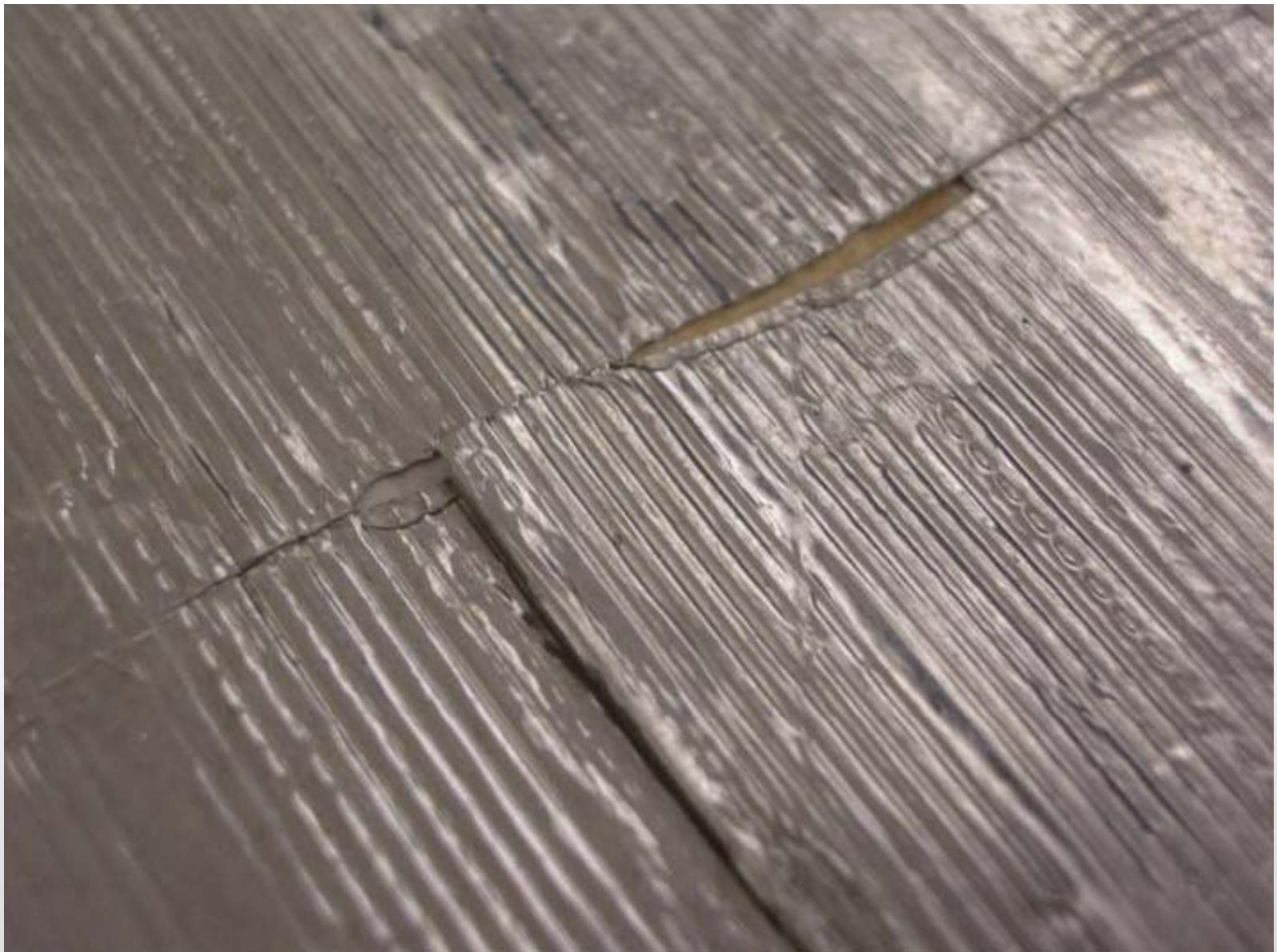
# Norwegian tinfoil artefact

- Sound Archive Project (2005-2009) at the University of Southampton used non-contact scanning methods for audio recovery from mechanical sound recordings
- Tinfoil artefact owned by the British Library Sound Archive successfully scanned in October 2008
- In 2009 The Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology and the National Library of Norway commissioned the Research Institute for Industry (University of Southampton) to scan their artefact and extract the audio content

# Physical features of Norwegian tinfoil

- Gluing process damaged the surface of the artefact in series of large depressions and creases
- Tinfoil has some tears, both across and along grooves. Audio in these regions is lost
- Tinfoil is a single sheet measuring  $132 \times 140\text{mm}$ 
  - drum diameter of approximately 40mm, assuming all of the sheet is present
  - Significantly smaller groove pitch than BLSA tinfoil (~1mm compared with ~3mm for BLSA)
  - Tinfoil contains 6 distinct tracks
  - Modulated groove structure (indicative of audio content) evident even by eye





# Sound Archive Project

- Research project funded by EPSRC at the School of Engineering Sciences, University of Southampton between March 2005 and March 2009
- Scanning systems provide high resolution, non-contact surface mapping of mechanical sound recordings, to digitally preserve the surface and for audio recovery
- Supported by the British Library Sound Archive and TaiCaan Technologies, and in collaboration with a US-based project at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- General progress of project reported at JTS2007 in Toronto
- Two preservation systems developed during project:
  - Cylinder scanner
  - Air bearing system for disc media
- Continuation of research programme through commercial scanning for Tin Foil and Flat Discs
- Commercial Scanning of Cylinders by TaiCaan Technologies.



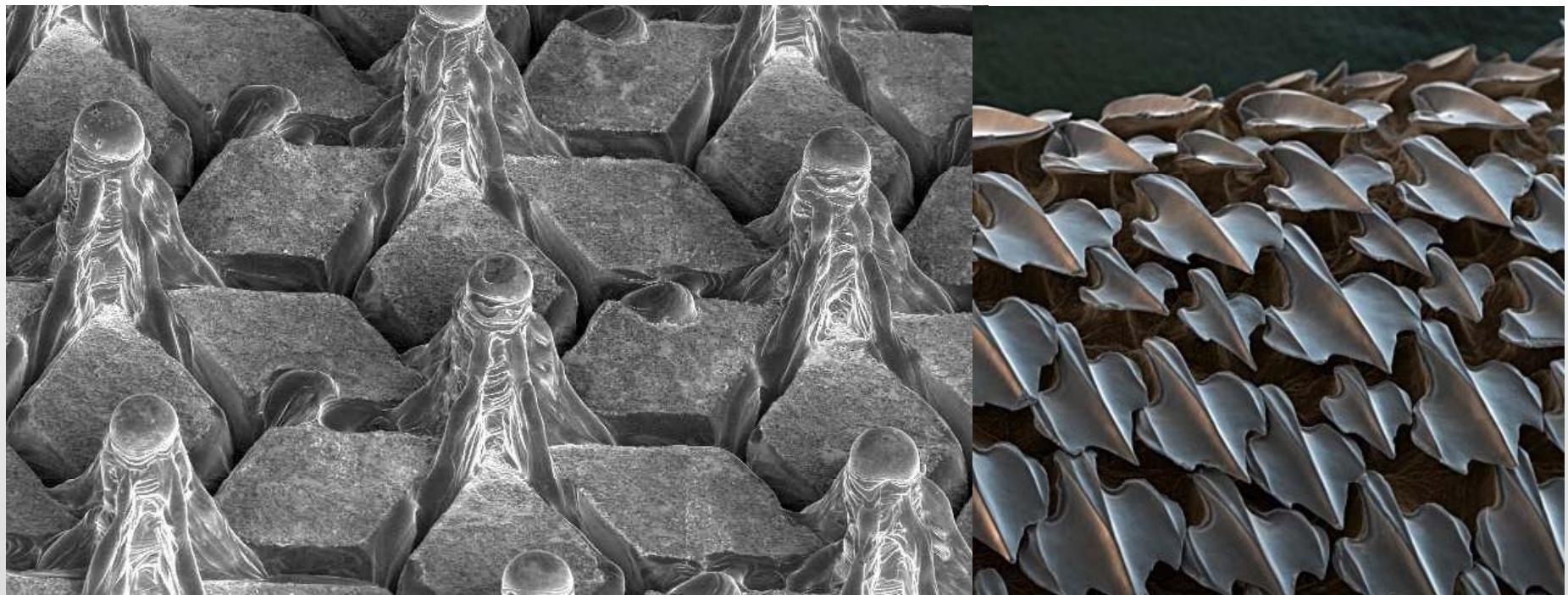
# Sound Archive Project

- <http://www.sesnet.soton.ac.uk/archivesound/>
- Current studies.
  - Cylinder Recording of Queen Victoria
  - Early 5 inch Berliner Flat Disc Master #85



# Wider Research Directions

- How to accurately measure the 3D geometries of structured surfaces. The key limitation is in the sensing of reflected light from highly sloping surfaces.
- How to collect sufficient data to represent the functionality of a surface .

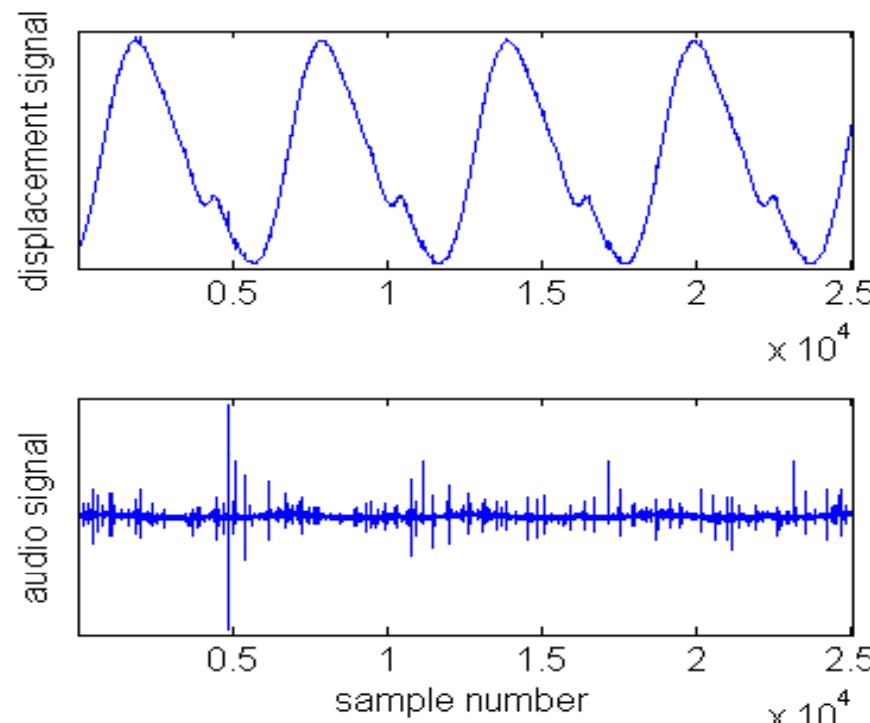


# Selected Refs

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- Boltryk, P.J., Hill, M. and McBride, J.W. (2009) [Comparing laser and polychromatic confocal optical displacement sensors for the 3D measurement of cylindrical artefacts containing microscopic grooved structures](#). *Wear*, 266, (5-6), 498-501. ([doi:10.1016/j.wear.2008.04.082](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2008.04.082))
- McBride, J.W., Zhao, Z. and Boltryk, P.J. (2009) [A comparison of optical sensing methods for the high precision 3D surface profile measurement of grooved surfaces](#). In, *EUSPEN Special Interest Group Meeting: Structured and Freeform Surfaces, Edinburgh, UK 24 - 25 Feb 2009*. , 46pp.
- McBride, J.W., Zhao, Z. and Boltryk, P. (2008) [A comparison of optical sensing methods for the high precision 3D surface profile measurement of grooved surfaces](#). In, *Proceedings ASPE 2008 Annual Meeting and the Twelfth ICPE*. Raleigh, USA, American Society for Precision Engineering.
- Nascè, Antony, Hill, Martyn, McBride, John W. and Boltryk, Peter (2008) [A quantitative analysis of signal reproduction from cylinder recordings measured via noncontact full surface mapping](#). *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 124, (4), 2042-2052. ([doi:10.1121/1.2973238](https://doi.org/10.1121/1.2973238))
- Boltryk, P.J., McBride, J.W., Hill, M., Nascè, A.J., Zhao, Z. and Maul, C. (2008) [Non-contact surface metrology for preservation and sound recovery from mechanical sound recordings](#). *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 56, (7/8), 545-559.
- Boltryk, Peter J., Hill, Martyn, McBride, John W. and Nascè, Antony (2008) [A comparison of precision optical displacement sensors for the 3-D measurement of complex surface profiles](#). *Sensors and Actuators A: Physical*, 142, (1), 2-11. ([doi:10.1016/j.sna.2007.03.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sna.2007.03.006))

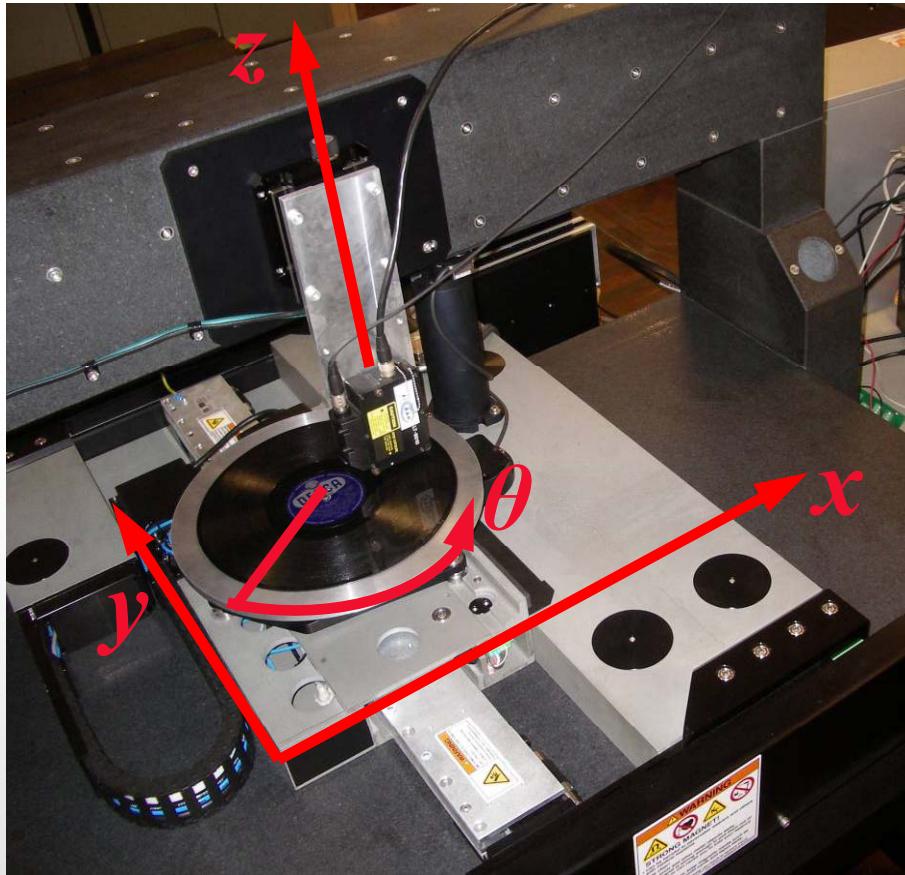
# Sound Archive Project - cylinder system

- Cylinder mounted between conical centres
- Sensor moved across groove structure in a series of linescans
- Effectively unwraps cylinder surface into a planar surface
- Data processing techniques used to detect groove structure, and audio extracted from displacement data



# Sound Archive Project – air bearing system

- System provides planar (x,y) travel of carriage on air bearing
  - Air bearing provided by  $\sim 5\mu\text{m}$  air 'cushion'
  - Moving carriage fitted with a rotation stage
  - Sensor mounted on overhead granite gantry, whose height controlled by high resolution stage
  - 4 axis of motion, suitable for disc media
  - Tinfoil artefacts are scanned by operating in 3-axis mode (neglecting rotary stage)
  - Unlike wax/Amberol-type cylinder, tinfoil is already 'unwrapped' so flat bed scanning is required



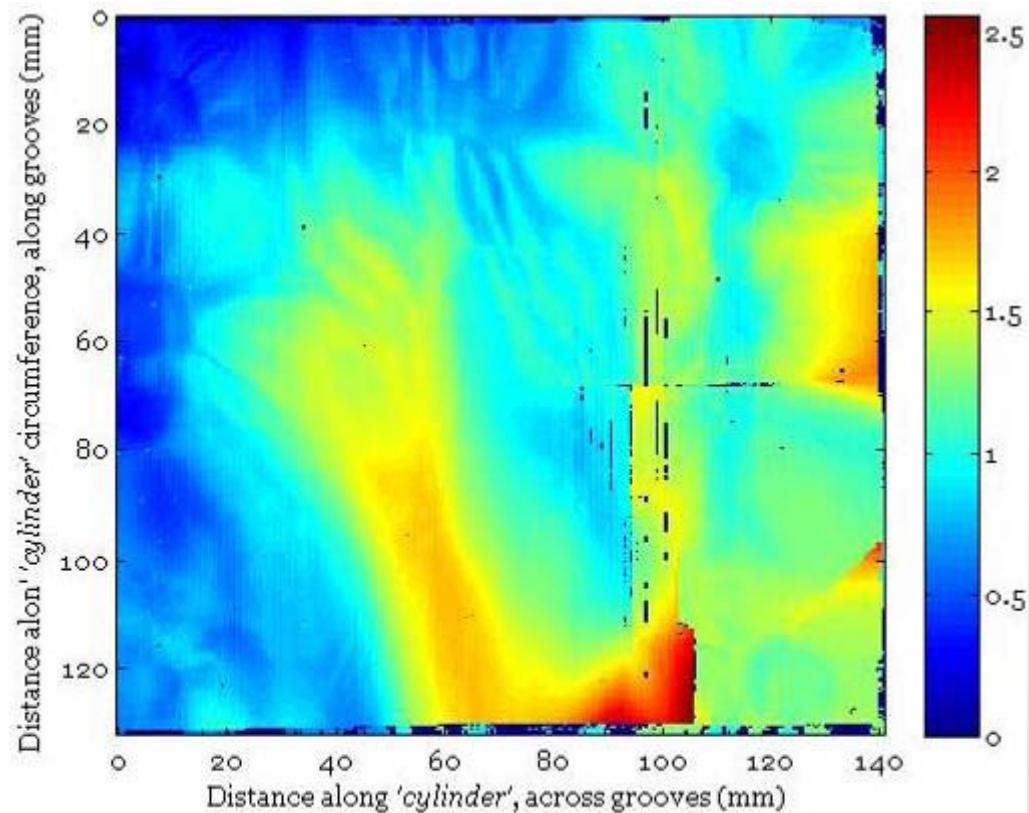
# Tinfoil mounted in scanning system

The tinfoil was positively located on the carriage using slips of cardboard taped over the edges. This stopped lateral movement of the tinfoil during the rapid acceleration of the air bearing carriage



The sensor is required to be located close above the surface

# Preview scan, segmentation and movement

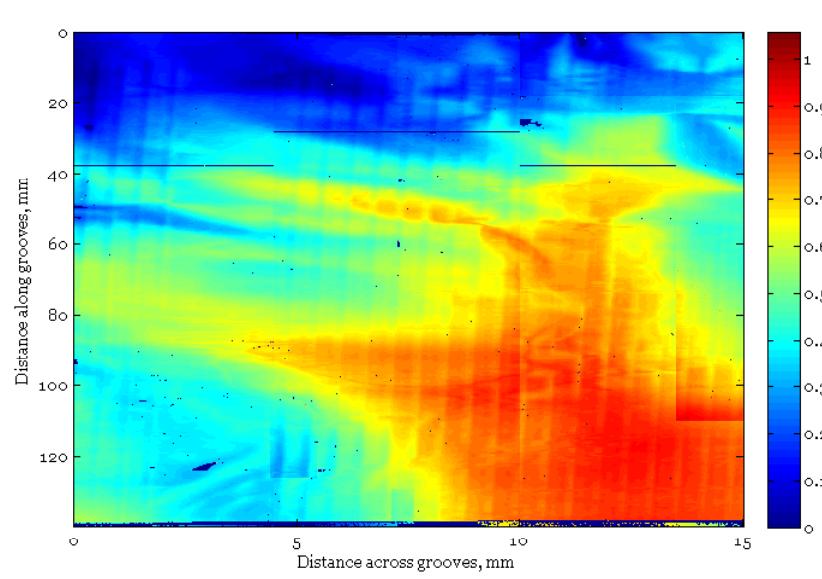


Low resolution ( $0.5 \times 0.5$ mm grid spacing) preview scan used to determine macroscopic form of surface. Colour coding in diagram represents height in mm.

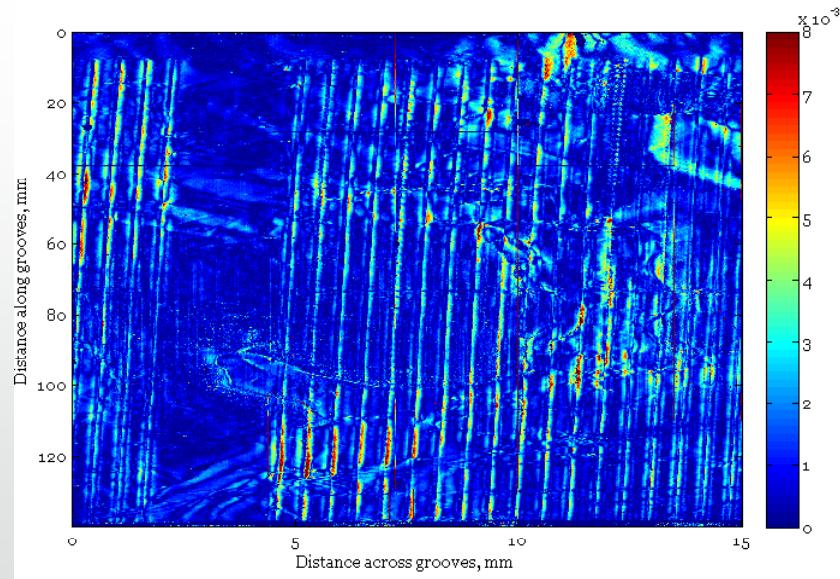
- Displacement sensor's working range limited to  $350\mu\text{m}$
- With  $\sim 2.5\text{mm}$  height variation across surface, an automated segmentation routine is necessary to scan whole artefact
- In common with BLSA tinfoil, artefact had tendency to move over time (relaxation, temperature effects?)
- Rigid cylinder artefacts have not been observed to suffer from this process
- Some segments had to be re-scanned to ensure that surface was within range of sensor

# Full resolution scanning

- Initial tests and calculations for audio recovery suggested appropriate grid resolution of  $10\mu\text{m}$  grid spacing in  $x$  and  $y$  directions
- Full scan took 3 weeks of continuous scanning, with recurrent supervision to detect shape changes in the tinfoil

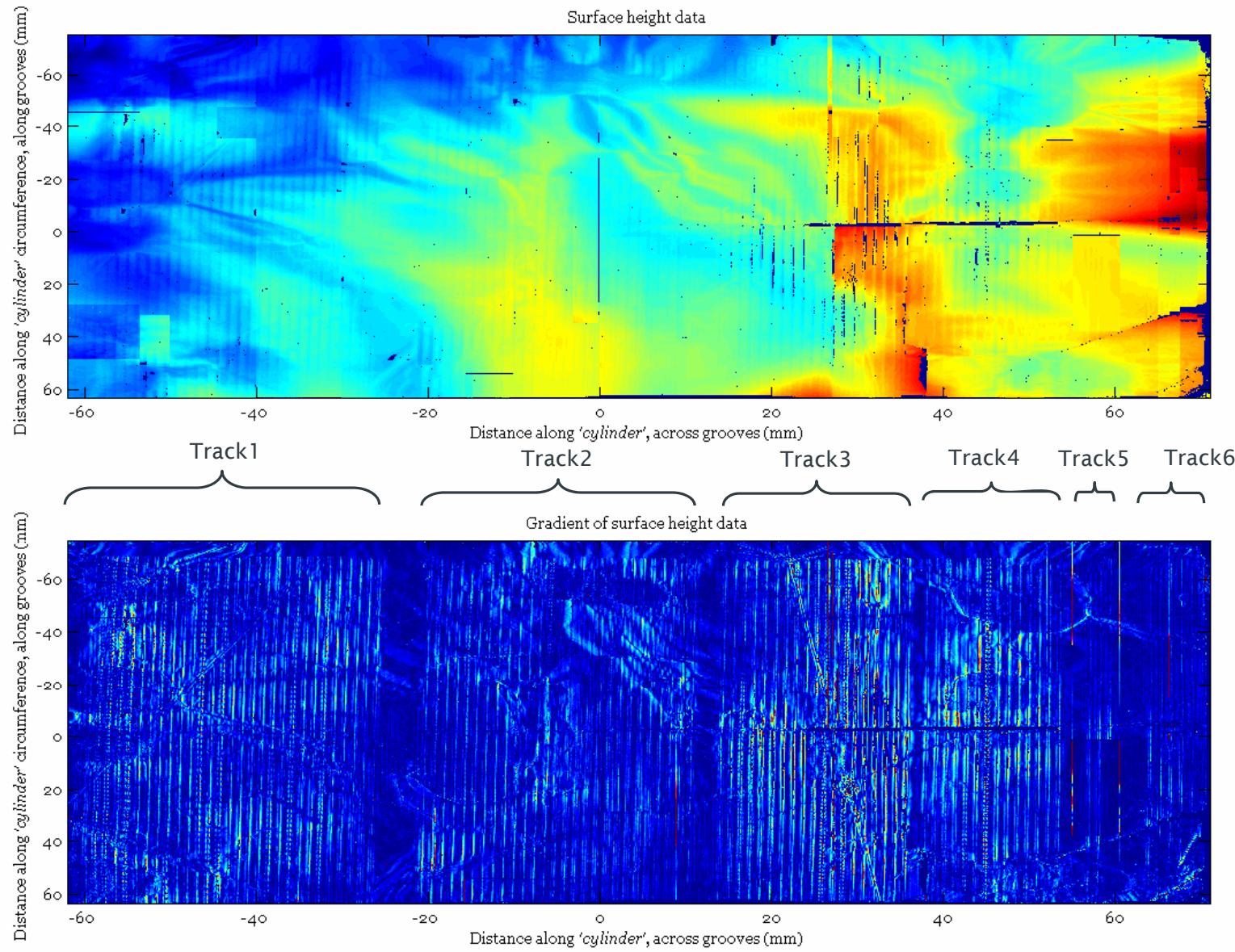


Surface height for 15mm length of tinfoil. Rectangular forms are evident, caused by segmentation



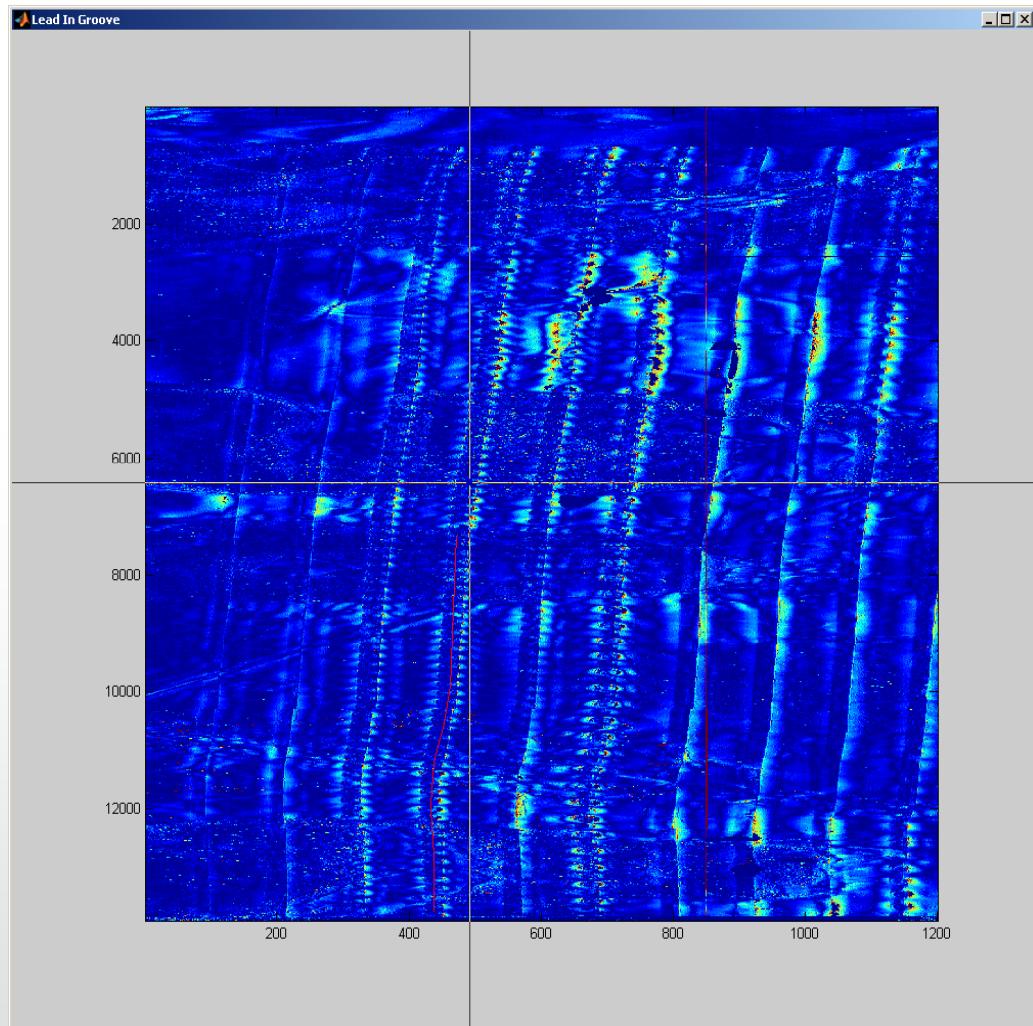
Gradient representation, to highlight groove structure

# Merged data – full surface



# Audio recovery

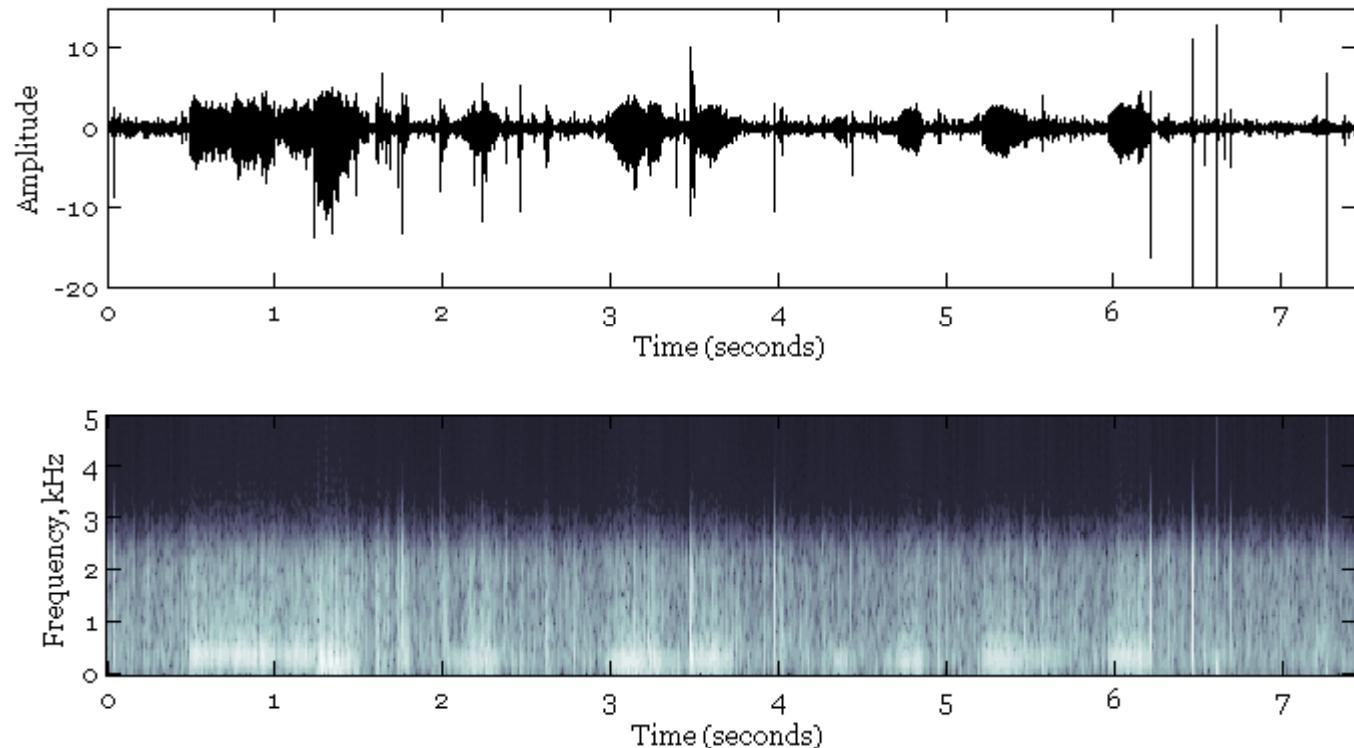
- Normal audio extraction procedure:
  1. Locate groove trajectories
  2. Generate groove matrix – e.g. at each linescan, select 30 points either side of groove centre
  3. Displacement track taken from vertical height of the groove bottom (sometimes lowest point of groove, or the mean of the nearest points in the groove centre)
- ‘Normal procedure’ proved to be rather disappointing
- Feature-tracking algorithm developed, based on correlating consecutive groove cross-sections, rather than following step 3 above
- Sample frequency speculative as size of tinfoil is unlike the 5” drum for the BLSA tinfoil



Gradient representation, and a groove trajectory highlighted in red

# Audio tracks

- Displacement data de-crackled and de-hissed using specially programmed filters
- Further restoration of audio performed at National Library of Norway



Time history (top axis) and spectrogram (lower axis) for track 1

# Audio tracks – summary of content

Track listings, lengths and description of content

Track	Track length (samples)	Description
Track1	387153	Music, perhaps brass instrument
Track2	346566	Male speech
Track3	243918	Perhaps speech/singing plus music. Maybe evidence of track discontinuity?
Track4	179018	A few notes from a brass instrument
Track5	32635	Just 2.5 grooves, no obvious audio content
Track6	69101	Crackle, no obvious audio content, regular drumming noise probably caused by loss of data where tinfoil is missing

# Tinfoil anomalies

- Analysis of measured grooves found little evidence of lead-in or lead-out grooves for the 6 tracks
  - Most tracks appear to start and end at the edge of the tinfoil, possibly suggesting that some of the tinfoil is missing
- Adjacent grooves were observed to exhibit differences in level of surface modulation, where gradual changes would be more expected
- The size of the tinfoil is very different to the tinfoil owned by BLSA – perhaps further evidence of loss of a portion of the tinfoil

**Kristiania Tivoli.**  
Torsdag den 6 Febr. (Gode Mandag) kl. 10. Etterfølgende af Professor Cunys Taasgholts Operas af Komediespillet Faune, Comedie af Mr. Robert, Dunderheden Mrs. Egger, Komiske Birkner, Strenge Mr. Søn, Stalld, den lille norske 4-årsprins Virtus Rudolf Svartmann og Danseskolenen F. Falck, med dirigenten Mr. Falck, Direktion af Mr. Birkner. Endre i Kl. 20 Ore.

■ Norges Tordens første Operas af det nasjonale Ballettskole Tigrus, under Direktion af Hofballermeister Tigrus. Kl. 10. 15 Ore.

NR. Ondine, Tordens, og Frogad gjelder ingen Prøvelser.

Kont. Tivoli.

**Skoiteboden.**  
Ister Dag.

**Illumination & Concert.**  
Onsdag og Torsdag Kl. 8 Præmiedag. Etter Dag. 1 Aarhuseis Præmiedag holdes Skoiteboden lukket mellem Kl. 7-8.

**Kristiania Tivoli.**  
**Præmiedobet.**  
Det som ønske at delte med i 1. pris af Skoiteboden, skal til Kristiania Tivoli, beløp at annale sig fra Tivoli slag og inngang. Formidling inden Kl. 7-8.

Kont. Tivoli.

**Fonografen**  
fornies høi Dagen på Tivoli. Endre 25 Ore.

**Agathe Grundahl**  
giver i Milleres februar en  
Concert.

med veldig Anstrenue til fra Mr. Baillie-  
Magazine, Mr. Vindum, Mr. H. og  
Mr. Vistensuer J. Bens.

**Edmund Neupert**  
giver Tordens den 8 Febr. en  
Concert

i Frimurerlogeas store Sal.  
Numerede billetter kan legges  
fra Onsdag Morgen i Warmuths  
Musikkhund.

**Johan Selmer**  
giver sin  
**KONCERT**  
Lørdag d. 25 Febr. Kl. 8  
i Logen Kl. 8  
med Blåstaf og  
Orkester,  
Kor og  
Solist.  
Program senere.

**Musikforeningen.**  
Korpseus hos Republikens Høi Fredag den 7de Februar:  
Eopers og Alt . . . . . Kl. 6-7  
Tors og Bors . . . . . Kl. 7-8

**Christiania Stilkub.**

**Nisse-Bal**

Torsdag den 6te (Mide Mandagdag) Kl. 6-12.  
Klængergaardet Kl. 2.  
Entre for Herre 1 Krone, 50,-  
Dame 1 Krone.

**Grünerl. vensk. Forening.**  
Forening.  
Klubhuse Thorberg 6te.

**Skjægebilleder.**  
Entre til Øre 1. Klubhuse  
funder, Thorberg 6te, 10-12, 12-14, 14-  
16, 16-18, 18-20, 20-22, 22-24, 24-26, 26-  
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imorgen Formiddag inden Kl. 12.  
Knut Tivander.

## Fonografen

forevises hele Dagen paa Tivoli. Entré  
**25 Øre.**

**Indre Tivoli**



Nasjonalbiblioteket

**Fonografen.** Som vi i vort Mandags-  
nummer meddelte voererne, skal en bekjendt nord-  
amerikansk Elektriker, Mr. Thomas A.  
Edison, have opfundet et Instrument, som  
han kalder Fonografen, ved hvilket man kan op-  
bevare eller oplagre den menneskelige Stemmes  
Ord paa en Metalplade, som man efter Schag-  
tan serde hvorherrt Verden det skal være, og  
hvis Modtagere, ved Fonografens Hjælp, kan  
høre Ufsenderenes Stemme tale. Vi visse  
idag efter Timos givne nærmere Beskrivelse  
af dette nærlægge Instrument, der ikke ganske  
nifent er blevet sammenlynet med Baron v.  
Wulckhausens velbekjendte Posthorn og som  
bestaaer af tre Hoveddele, hvilke vi ville be-  
kende: Modtagelses-, Opbevarings- og Over-  
leveringsapparatet. Modtagelsesapparatet be-  
staaer af et højt Kor, hvis ene Ende er forsy-  
net med et Mundstykke; den anden Ende, der  
er to Tommer i Stennemtuit, er lullet med  
en meget tynd Metalplade, der sættes i Sving-  
ninger, naar man taler i Korret. Meldt i  
Metalpladen, der stilles lodret, er anbragt en  
liberi, stump Staalstift, der altsaa vestager i  
Metalpladens Svingninger. Modtagelsesap-  
paratet anbringes paa et Ord, og lakk ved  
Hjælp af Skruer fast i Forbindelse med Op-  
bevaringsapparatet, der bestaaer af en lidt  
omtrent 4 Tommer lang og 1,5saa tyk Mess-  
ingcylinder, hvis Ende er klejstaaet, saaledes  
at hele Klejstykets Længde bliver  
omtrent 40 Dob. Denne Cylinder er paa en  
vandret Axe med Haandtag anbragt saaledes,  
at den ikke alene kan drejes rundt, men tilsle-  
ttes under Omhændingen forsydes sin egen Længde

## Fonografen.

Man saa allerede for en Tid siden i et af vore Dagblade en Beretning om, at Fonografen, denne Nutidens mest vidunderlige Opfindelse, skulde være forevist inden en mindre Kreds her i Kristiania. Da dette Instrument sikkertlig endnu kun forefindes i yderst saa Exemplarer paa denne Side af Atlanterhavet, og hertillands uden al Twivl blot i dette ene Exemplar, vilde dets Eier vistnok gjøre sig det større Publikum meget forbundet, om han vilde give det Anledning til at gjøre Velkendtskab med denne Triumf for den moderne Videnskab. Man kan selvfølgelig ikke vente, at Apparatets Eier gratis skulde ofre Tid og Penge for at vise Publikum denne Imødekommenhed, men man maatte naturligvis holde ham sladesløs ved en passende Entré.

Man tillader sig derfor venligst at henvinne til Bedkommende, versom det kan lade sig øøre, i et passende Lokale at forevise Fonografen.

I fleres Navn.





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Dette stansialstykket er en av de første "Zonografplatene" som ble aplat av en Edisonfonograff i Norge. Platen er salme inskrevet av underliggende på en demonstrasjon som ble avholdt på Tivoli i Kristiania 1879.

Gav til Norsk Tekniske Museum  
Oslo den 15. 1. 1934. P. L. Dieseth  
F. M. 10. 1887



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## Edisons Fonograf

(Tale- og Syngemaskine) er kommen til Christiania og forevises Lørdag, Søndag, Mandag og Tirsdag fra Kl. 12—2 og 6—9 i Hotel Royal, 1 Etg. I Begyndelsen af hver Time holdes et forklarende Foredrag. Entré 0.50. Søndag kun fra Kl. 5—9.



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### Minibfononinon



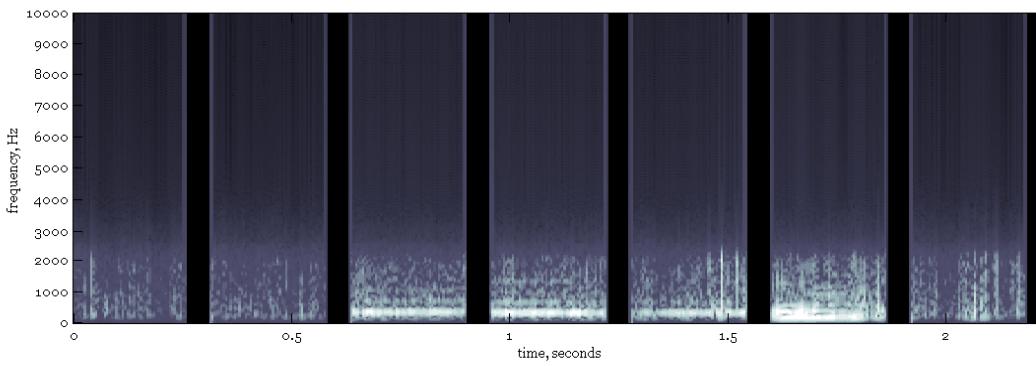
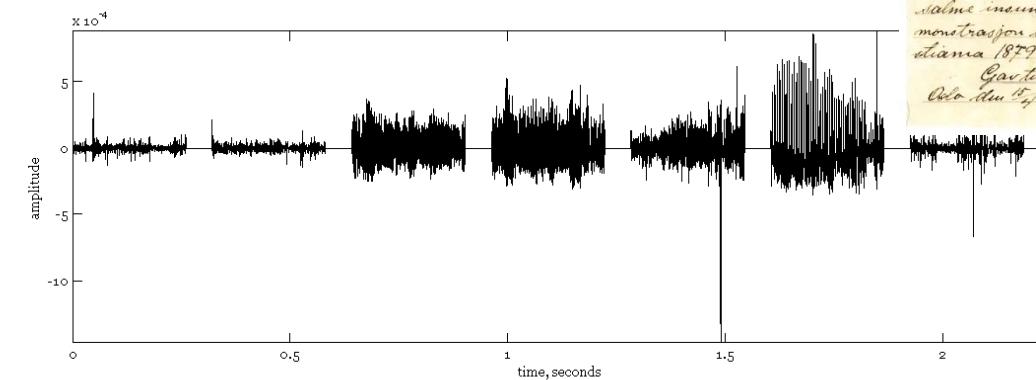
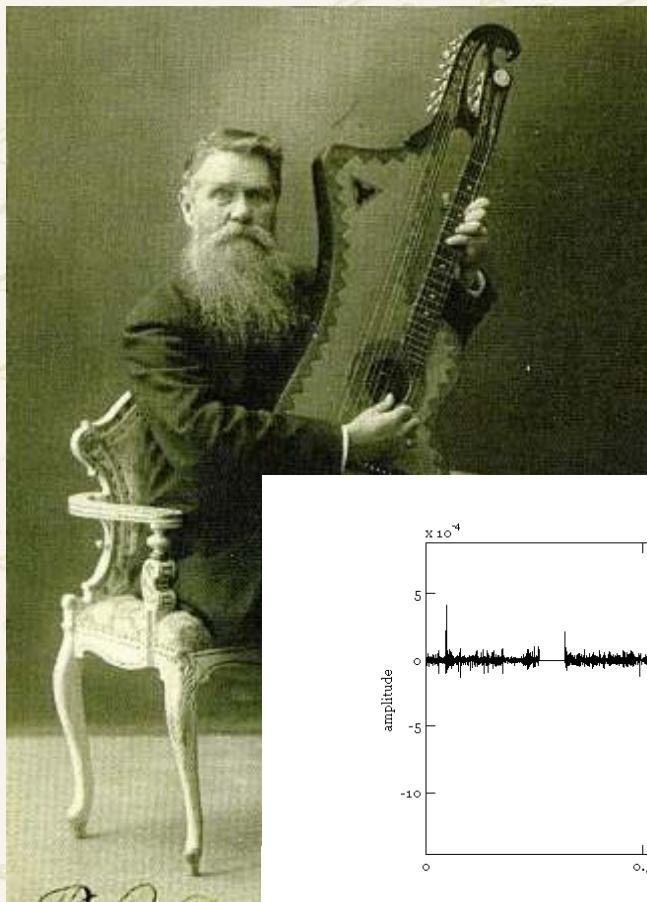
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Gaa forevistes der en Fonograf, som  
skulde være ganske nærkælfly, men det maa nok  
have været et usfuldkommende Instrument; ial-  
fald er det lidet troligt, at nogen skulde være  
tilfreds med den Maade, hvorpaas ens Tale  
blev gjengivet.





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Thank  
you

Gode! - De heilige man far verre  
By har alt herligh - Begnæringen på vist op  
men alst hij Friedom mænligig vølge;  
var alt fab. at v. mænna han ~~hendes~~ glad  
de fæd i foren han i jæge,  
- Gott chælder en jæge  
- Jæg du <sup>160</sup> heilige fæd far vist op  
hjælper du med en fæl han i han  
- Han ikke stod noch fæd far  
- Han jæg, mæn mænne fæd  
- Han ej stæg mæn mænne fæd  
- Han mænne fæd



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