

HINES - not 57 Varieties

THE SCOTTISH GRAMOPHONE MANUFACTURING COMPANY LTD.

by Chris Hamilton

For many years I have tried to find out whether any talking machines were manufactured in Scotland. After many false trails and blind alleys I have been able to discover one such manufacturer. This was the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Company Ltd., of Glasgow. I would like to give a brief account of what I have been able to discover about this company and its activities.

In 1915 a certain James Hines, of 18 Derby Crescent, Kelvinside, Glasgow, registered the following patents:

- 5614 of 14/4/15,
- 11647 of 12/8/15 and
- 15958 of 12/11/15.
- Two further patents followed: 110525 of 7/7/17 and 204631 of 26/1/23.

These patents were all concerned with the manufacture of talking machines. Brief descriptions are as follows:

- 5614 and 109773 described an expansion chamber which when placed between the back of the sound box and the mouth of the horn acted as a tone-control.
- 11647 described an improved starting and stopping device for talking machines. In effect this was an automatic brake which was set manually for each record.
- 15958 described a butterfly valve arrangement in the neck of the horn which when activated by a lever altered the volume.
- 204631 described improvements in cabinet design for sound reproducing machines, a device to reflect the sound produced by a talking machine to all parts of a room. This was supposed to be perceived by the audience as indirect sound.

Sometime around 1917 James Hines formed the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Co. to manufacture and market gramophones incorporating the ideas described in his patents. However it became obvious that more capital was required to do this and James Hines approached Findley Caldwell Ker C.A., a partner in Messrs. Hardie Caldwell Ker and Hardie, Chartered Accountants, for help. On the 12th of April 1919 the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was incorporated to acquire and take over as a going concern the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Co. of 108, John Street, Glasgow. The Registered Office of the new company was 149 St. Vincent St. Glasgow. This was the office of Messrs. Hardie Caldwell Ker & Hardie.

THE GRAMOPHONES

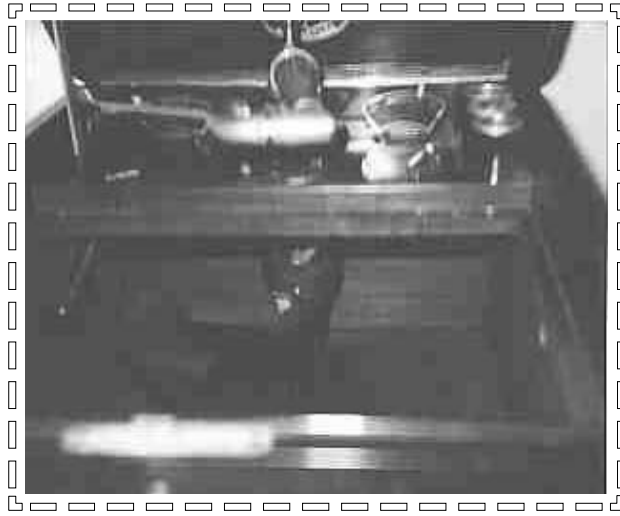
As far as I can discover at least two types of gramophone were manufactured. Both carried the trade-mark 'Hines'. One was a table grand, the other an upright cabinet.



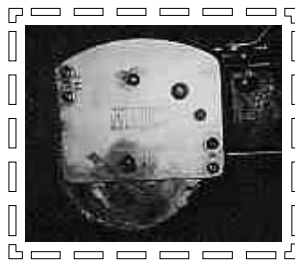
The table Hines was very similar in outward appearance and dimensions to the HMV table grand Model 9. Inside the machine, the needle compartments looked like those of the HMV, the sound box was obviously a copy of the Exhibition and the tapered tone-arm with goose neck is similarly identical.



The Hines sound box (Exhibition look-alike) on the table model



As can be seen in the photographs, there are two quadrant levers, one on the left of the tone-arm and one on the right. The left one is the tone control, connected by a lever under the motor board to a piston which varies the size of, an expansion chamber in the neck of the horn. The quadrant is divided into three parts, one marked for songs and talking, one for orchestras and solo instruments and the third for brass bands. The smallest size of expansion chamber is for the orchestras and solo instruments, while the largest is for the brass bands. The right hand quadrant is linked by a lever to a butterfly valve in the throat of the horn. This controls the volume emitted by the gramophone with the loudest volume when the valve is fully open and the quietest when it is fully closed. Between the back of the turntable and the base of the tone arm is a long lever. This operates the patented automatic brake, which the user sets manually according to the size of the record.



On the right towards the front of the motor board to is a light which works off a dry-cell battery held in place by clips under the motor board. This would have enabled the user to place records on the turntable and to set the controls in dimly-lit conditions. The motor was either a double-spring Garrard or a double-spring Swiss make.

Later models of the table type had a modified tone-arm which was untapered, and had a swan-neck.

This arm rotated on its axis to lift the sound box clear of the turntable. The sound box was also different, of a newer design and with a larger diaphragm, still of mica.

There was at least one upright, cabinet model. This had a conventional type of case with decorated corners, record, storage and legs with castors. The top of the cabinet looked identical to that of the table grand. The internal arrangements were also similar to the table model except that there were no quadrant controls. The tone-arm and sound box were of the later design. This model did not have a tone control. The volume control was a rotary type sunk into a recess in the right-hand side of the cabinet level with the butterfly valve pivot. Like that of the table model, the control was linked by a lever linked to the butterfly valve in the throat of the horn.



In all the models I have seen the horn is made of cast iron. This makes the machines, very heavy and not easily moved about. Although I live in Scotland, I find the Hines gramophones relatively uncommon. As I have not come across any catalogues or advertisements, I have no idea how the machines were priced compared with their competitors.

I hope this article will unearth some more information about what I believe to be Scotland's only talking machine manufacturer. I hope some readers can help to fill in the many gaps in the history of the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing, Co. Ltd. I would also be grateful if any reader could come up with any information, regarding any other talking machine manufacturer in Scotland.

THE COMPANY

At the time of its incorporation in April 1919, the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Co. Ltd.'s share capital was £10,000, consisting of:

- 1500 "A" 7½% Preference shares of £1 each
- 200 "B" 7½% Preference Shares of £1 each
- 8300 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

The initial directors were James Hines, Engineer, 108 John St., Glasgow, Managing Director; Findley Caldwell Ker, C.A., Glasgow, Chairman.

The articles of association of the Company stated that the Company had acquired the Letters Patent of James Hines as well as the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Company. The Company had the sole right to these patents. James Hines was to receive £4200 for these assets: £2500 for the Letters Patent and £1700 for the moveable plant, machinery, loose tools and stock in trade. This consideration was met in full by the issue of 200 "B" Preference Shares and 2500 Ordinary Shares in the new Company to James Hines.

The qualification of a director was the holding of 250 ordinary/preference shares in the Company. The Board of directors was to consist of no fewer than two persons nor more than three.

James Hines was to receive a salary of £300 per annum, to be paid in twelve monthly instalments of £25, for his services to the Company, which were to be full-time. The Company's borrowing was not to exceed £5800 without the passing of a resolution to increase borrowing at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company convened for that purpose.

The share account of the Company dated 17/6/19 revealed the appointment of one more director and the existence of two more share-holders. The account was as follows:

Shareholders	"A" Preference	"B" Preference	Ordinary
James Hines		250	1499
Findley Caldwell Ker	1499		
Frank Galbraith, Managing Director, 10 Renfield Street, Glasgow			250
William Alexander, Merchant, Banknock House, Banknock, Stirlingshire			250

The share account on 16/9/19 had changed as follows: William Clarkson, clerk, 149 St. Vincent St. Glasgow owned one "A" Preference Share. The Registered Office of the company had changed to 204 St. Vincent St., Glasgow, whither, I believe, the offices of Messrs. Hardie Caldwell & Ker had moved.

On 16/2/20 Findley Caldwell had sold 500 of his "A" Preference Shares to a William Symington Davie, coal mine owner, of Heathside, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire. On 20/11/20 Robert Barr, ship owner, of Dunard, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire subscribed to 2000 Ordinary Shares. By 29/7/21 Frank Galbraith had died and his shares passed to his widow.

The share account on 27/9/22 had altered to the following:

Shareholders	"A" Preference	"B" Preference	Ordinary
James Hines		200	2500
Findley Caldwell Ker	250		
Mrs Galbraith			250
William Alexander			250
William Clarkson	1		
William S. Davie	500		
Robert Barr			2000
Thomas Lillie, William Oswald & Robert Pate			
	749		
all of The Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow			

The Share Account on 21/11/23 was as on 27/9/22 except that the 749 "A" Preference Shares in the names of Messrs. Lillie, Oswald and Pate had been transferred to the Royal Bank of Scotland Nominees Ltd., of 39 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow.

The Share Account remained the same on 28/10/25, 15/11/26 and 14/1/28. However James Hines had died in early 1928 and the share account on 31/13/28 showed that his executors Lawrence Hines and Edwin Hines owned his shares.

The Share Account was the same on 21/12/29 except that William Clarkson was now a Director. The next share account on 31/12/30 showed that Findley Caldwell Ker had acquired James Hines' shares from his executors. There was no other change until the last share account was published on 7/1/42.

The Company was dissolved on 15/2/43. As there was no money left in the company after paying all its creditors and expenses it had applied to the Registrar of Companies to be struck off the Register.

I have not been able to find any published accounts of the company, and so have been unable to trace any annual/extraordinary general meetings to find how profitable it had been. However I

assume that the Scottish Gramophone Manufacturing Co. Ltd. had some financial difficulties when the Royal Bank of Scotland took a share in its equity. The company had presumably recovered in 1924 when Findley Caldwell Ker had acquired his 749 "A" preference shares back.

After James Hines had died, William Clarkson was made a director. However he did not have the requisite number of shares to qualify. This along with the fact that little or no activity in the share account took place afterwards leads me to think that the company ceased active trading within a year or so of the death of James Hines.

This footnote was added by the then Editor, Christopher Proudfoot:

The S.G.M.C. were not the only makers of a "Caledonian" Exhibition sound box look-alike: there was the 'Linwood' reproducer, produced by Dent & Co. & Johnson, Ltd., of (long before Hillman Imps were thought of). Did this company, presumably an amalgamation of two firms, also produce complete gramophones?

An interesting feature of the Hines table grand is the double bend in the horn. This is very advanced for 1919; HMV did not get round to that sort of thing until 1925.

{I apologize for the qualities of the photographs. The originals have gone astray and as soon as they come to hand I'll install them in place of the copies. C.H. }

© Chris Hamilton 1986

{This article first appeared in *Hillandale News* (the official journal of the City of London Phonograph & Gramophone Society) Issue No.150, June 1986}