

# Dan on Record Collecting

Producer: Hank Hehmsoth

[mech. noise]

[78 rpm jazz music]

[Dan Morgenstern] When I came to New York, of course you know, this is still the 78 era. There were stores, department stores, had records, Macy's had records. A cousin of my father, it was my only relative in the US, and I was 17, she wanted to get me a birthday present. We went to Macy's, where she had a charge. What I wanted, what she bought for me, was a Bunk Johnson - Victor album. [music] Another place that was weird was Klein's on the Union Square. "S. Klein's". It was the cheapest department store. They got all kinds of overstock merchandise that they resold. Good stuff! If you looked, you could find great deals there. For some reason or other, they got a hold of hundreds of "Music Craft" records, and were selling them five for a dollar, or quarter a piece, five for a dollar. I bought a whole lot of bebop records there. But that was unusual. There were stores that catered to jazz people. There were wonderful, really first-class stores. That Liberty Music Shop on Madison Avenue was a class store. And they had jazz, too, but they were expensive. Everything was at list price. And it was mainly classical. but we'd look for places. You'd go junk shopping. I mean that was the thing. There were so many junk stores in those days, before landlords started charging an unreasonable rent. And almost all of them there would be a pile of 78s. They wouldn't even be in sleeves. And it was fun to browse through those things. One of the things that you would almost always find there where a gang of "Wilbur Sweatman" - Columbias. The Wilbur Sweatman sold very well... contemporary of the "ODJB" {Original Dixieland Jazz Band} [music] Somebody, an Englishman did a biography of Sweatman. Lennie Kunstead, my good friend was big on Wilbur. He knew him. He interviewed him for his "Record Research" magazine. That brings us to a whole other thing. That's the record collectors. I knew Carl Kendziora. These people were doing. Carl Kendziora did a column for the "Record Changer", which was the best of the collector's magazines. Nesuhi Ertegune had been an editor of that. Orrin Keepnews was an editor of that. They had subsisted on advertising from collectors who were selling records through mail order. This is before anything on the internet [laughter] ...or eBay. But it's the same kind of deal. [mechanical noise as record changes] [music] Jake Schneider was a famous seller of rare 78s. Jake was a lawyer by profession, but that's what he did. He had a ton of 78s. he was expensive, but you could find things. When there was something that you were really looking for, and that you couldn't find, Jake usually would have it. And he would charge you. But if you wanted it, you would get it. What could you do?...

[music]

[78 record noise]