

More on Naxos's "Jussi Björling Collection"

Our JB Society has been glad to bring Volumes 4 and 5 of Naxos's "JB Collection" to our members, and now **you can order Vol. 6 from the Museum**: This includes all 12 "Erik Odde" recordings of Jussi with his dance-band accompaniments from 1932-33, as well as slightly more substantial music recorded under his own name (e.g. three songs from a 1933 competition for the "best summer song" of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden). We have heard Vol. 6 and can assure you that Stefan Lindström's remasterings are noticeably warmer and easier to listen to than previous transcriptions.

Now, we've assumed that you could get **Vols. 1-3 of the Naxos "JB Collection"** on your own, but since they no longer are available in the US you could order them from the Museum, probably with other CDs as well. OR here's an alternate strategy: You can order them from us, since Naxos can still provide them to JBS as a non-profit educational Society. **Cost to members: \$7 each** (that includes postage in the US), just send your order and check made out to JBS-USA, to your Editor: Dan Shea, 3337 Conservancy Lane, Middleton WI 53562.

2. JBS-USA enters a legal thicket, to liberate Jussi's Library of Congress recordings

Treasures of Björling broadcasts, at least 9 of them, lie buried in a governmental archive, guarded by Fafnerian dragons with law degrees: Where are Siegfried and Notung when you need them!

You may recall Sue Flaster's article in Volume 14 of our *JBS Journal* (the Spring/Fall 2003 "double issue"), pp. 9-11: She tells of the work of Don Goldberg and Harald Henrysson to uncover a sweet cache of broadcasts from 1945-1951, in the archives of the Library of Congress. These are high quality direct transcriptions of Telephone Hour and Voice of Firestone radio programs, along with a Ford Sunday Evening Hour program from 1946 and the audio portion of a television program ("We, the People" from February 1951) where Dorothy Caruso speaks with Jussi about Enrico, and Jussi sings the big aria from *Pagliacci*.

There is about three hours of music here, and the point is that the sound quality of all this material is *excellent*: While much of it had been available in earlier pirated forms, the sound quality of that always was mediocre to terrible – with lovely songs like Glover's "The Rose of Tralee" and Tours's "Mother o' Mine" being close to unlistenable, especially disappointing since Jussi never re-recorded those songs in any other way.

While Harald had been able to get good copies of the Library's cache, use of them has been severely restricted by the attorneys who guard the rights to this program material on behalf of the NBC and ABC networks. Harald was given permission to play it at the **October 2002 Björling Society Conference** in New York City, as well as for visitors at the **Björling Museum**.

Now we want to make this material more generally available. Using their experience dealing with these attorneys back in 2002, an ad hoc committee of Sue, Harald, and Dan have made a first approach to the legal dragons, with helpful reassurance from our own official JBS legal dragon, Terry Williams of Kansas City. Our letters were sent off several weeks ago, in early June. We'll let you know about any progress!