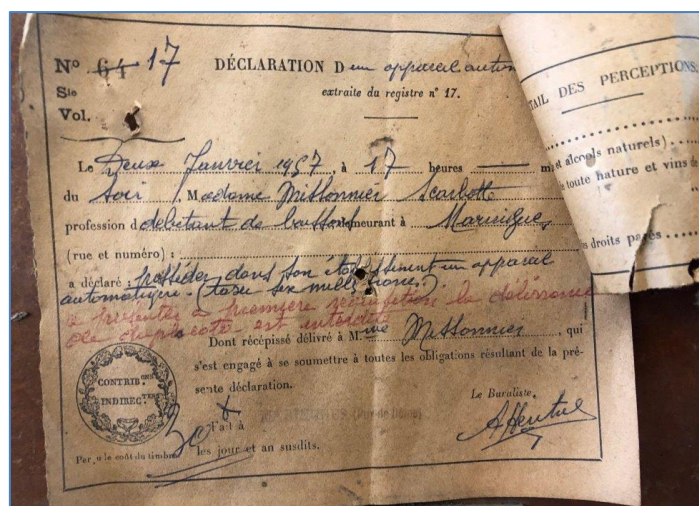


French Mystery Semi-Automatic Coin-Op Gramophone

There is a problem with the history of the until now named *Heutue* jukebox. There is no identification plate or name on the machine, but the tax labels on the back of the cabinet tell the following: **a)** The payer of the tax on the machine is Missonier Scarbotte, the owner of a drinking establishment in Maringues (Puy de Dôme). **b)** The collector of the tax is the tobacconist A(*uguste*) Heutue (*also the label is stamped Maringues, Puy de Dôme*). A. Heutue was probably not the manufacturer of the coin-operated machine. Changes in the *Taxe sur Spectacle* law around 1955, with a high tax of \$255 per machine, was the reason why some of the major companies in the coin-op phonograph industry formed the organization, *Syndicate de National des Professionnels de L'Automatique*, and due to a co-operative move supported by location owners and the public the manufacturers managed to get the tax reduced by 50 percent.



Tax label 1957

Concerning the semi-automatic phonographs in question there are no marks that can identify the vital parts like the turntable, motor and amplifier, or even the cabinet. There is no known patent related to the machine although it has a B(*revet*) SGD G (*Sans Garantie Du Gouvernement*) emblem on the front.



It is of course reasonable to assume, since there are at least two different cabinet designs known, that it was a serial production, and not many major manufacturers are totally unknown today among radio and gramophone collectors. The only manufacturer known in the Puy de Dôme area and the city Lyon nearby is the company S.C.I.E. registered at the address 14 Avenue Maréchal de Saxe in central Lyon for more than twenty years. The company S.C.I.E. was registered officially in 1935 as a manufacturer of *phonographes automatiques*, and in 1964 the company was known as the regional depot for Film et Radio in Paris, the general importer of Garrard equipment.

French radio and gramophone collectors ought to be able to identify the turntable or the special double tonearm. It is not an American AuDaK tonearm, but British Garrard also made some double tonearms - late 1940s.



Turntable and serial number



Amplifier

Finally it can be noted, that most deceased people of reasonable age with the family name Scarbotte listed in French genealogy were born and living in the Lyon city and the Puy de Dôme area. Information would be much appreciated.

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