

Letter from Louis Hicks to Alexander Graham Bell, August 28, 1907

Louis Hicks TELEPHONE No. 6511 CORTLANDT. Counsellor at Law and Proctor in Admiralty, Corporation, Patent and General Law. 71 Nassau Street, Corner John Street. New York , N. Y. Aug. 28, 1907. Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:

I have found a report in Science of a lecture delivered by you in Washington in May, 1888, before the Fortnightly Club. In that lecture you stated that disc or flat sound records were superior to cylindrical sound records because of the greater facility of multiplying copies. "Electrotypes are much more readily made from flat discs than from the cylinders", you said, " and from these electrotypes other discs obtain the spiral impression by pressure of the former upon the latter and the duplicates reproduce the sound as perfect as the disc upon which the original record is made. " You will recollect that the original graphophone invention of cutting or engraving a sound record upon the surface of a disc or cylinder of wax or wax-like material included the cutting or engraving by lateral and vertical undulations, as appears from the records of the Smithsonian Institute and statements in several of the patents.

Will you kindly inform me whether you have a complete copy of the paper which you read in May, 1888, before the Fortnightly Club and if you have a printed copy whether you can let me have a printed copy and whether, if there is no printed copy, I can have a copy made of the written paper. I should be obliged also if you will kindly inform me whether I could obtain your deposition in Washington or New York, if you happen to be here, with reference to the subject matter of the lecture. It seems to me just that those who so fully developed the art of duplicating sound records at very early dates should make known the facts and not permit others to claim as their own and patent that which was fully invented and disclosed by you and your co-inventors so many years ago.

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Very truly yours, Louis Hicks