

Hexagon
Occult Services
"We make the weird normal!"

Arcane Storage Department

Log Report:
Assets XL-94a (Edison Dictaphone),
XL-94b (handwritten notes)

completed by Ingest Supervisor J [REDACTED] L [REDACTED]

A. Client Requests

Client (James Findley) has expressed a wish "to be rid of that fucking thing forever" and has paid us a handsome sum to ensure the Asset is secure where it cannot do any more harm. (This last part turned out to be more easily promised than delivered upon, I'm afraid. Please see Section E for details.) While we attempted to persuade the client that our Arcane Disposal Services may be more suited to his needs, he was adamant that long-term storage was "more in keeping with (his) grandfather's wishes".

B. Physical Attributes

Asset XL-94a is an early model Edison dictaphone -- a dictation machine with an irremovable wax cylinder inside. This Asset evidently predates the advent of electric motor dictaphones, as it relies on a hand crank and foot treadles. The intent is to capture vocal impressions on the wax cylinder inside. Upon depressing the foot treadle, the wax cylinder reverses and the dictaphone plays whatever has been recorded. The Asset itself is in fine physical condition considering its age; only a few scuff marks mar its dark outer casing.

Asset XL-94b is a set of handwritten notes contextualizing the wax cylinder recording. The bulk of the notes are illegible due to either sloppy handwriting or weathering from improper storage. What could be made out of their contents has been summarized in Section D below.

C. Contents of Wax Cylinder Recording (XL-94a)

“00:00:00 – 00:00:10 ... silence

00:00:11 – 00:00:20 ... man's voice recites date, November 25th, 1897

00:00:21 – 00:00:24 ... shuffling sounds

00:00:25 – 00:00:49 ... same man's voice, 'you are about to hear a field recording of the children's choir at the Holy Sisters of (?) Orphanage'

00:00:50 – 00:01:01 ... silence

00:01:02 – 00:01:10 ... same man's voice, 'we preserve their voices so those of more advanced scientific knowledge in the distant future may investigate their sometimes maddening, sometimes wonderful effects(?). Please take all precautions before listening.”

00:01:11 – 00:01:16 ... coughing, shuffling

00:01:17 – unknown ... children's choir voices. Appear to be singing Amazing Grace. Not very accomplished singers, technically. But still. Pretty. A bit eerie. Beautiful falsettos. It is rather nice. I think it is rather more nice the more I listen. I like it very much. I think I will keep listening and hear how nice it gets”

-incomplete transcription notes made by Technician G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED]

D. Contents of Handwritten Notes (XL-94b)

- These handwritten notes are attributed to Doctor William Findley. (Investigation suggests Findley was not actually an accredited doctor of any sort but rather a huckster and spiritualist.)
- Findley describes being hired by the nuns at an orphanage to investigate the strange, heavenly singing voices of several of their young charges.
- Findley seems excited at the prospect of fleecing a bunch of gullible nuns.
- Upon arrival, Findley discovers he's bit off more than he can chew. The children's voices appear to have genuinely supranormal effects.
- The voices educe a range of peculiar effects in listeners, from utter madness to edifying rapture.
- The nuns wish to determine whether the children are demonstrating a gift from God or a curse from a demonic spirit. (While we try to remain impersonal in our assessments, I must say my own determination is that it was rather more the latter than the former.)
- What can be made out of the notes toward their end is rather grim -- Findley's writings become increasingly paranoid and rambling.

E. Liability Report

Though precautions were taken, one terminal liability and one partial liability occurred during the ingest process for Asset XL-94a.

While any TBs are, of course, tragic, we prefer to frame this incident in terms of all the additional damage that *could* have been done if not for our effective intervention.

And to put it in more mercenary terms, we discovered much about this Asset that would not have been known had mistakes not been made.

During the late stages of ingest, technician G [REDACTED] P [REDACTED] abandoned safety protocols, turned the hand crank, and depressed the foot treadle, activating the Asset in an attempt to determine its full capabilities. (Section C above is a transcription of the notes Technician P [REDACTED] made as he listened to the recording.)

It is our assessment that the Asset must exhibit a slight residual mental lure even in its inert state. Technician P [REDACTED] was a model employee and we do not believe he would have made this lapse had he been fully in command of his faculties.

At this point, Technician S [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] entered and, realizing a breach had occurred, pushed Technician P [REDACTED] aside, turned off the Asset, and activated emergency protocols. In the process, Technician D [REDACTED] was exposed to the sounds from the Asset, but substantially less than Technician P [REDACTED] had been.

Technician P [REDACTED] was quarantined but insisted he was unaffected by the Asset. After several hours of careful observation, we detected no symptoms and Technician P [REDACTED] was allowed to go on lunch. Throughout the hour, Technician P [REDACTED] became increasingly agitated, demanding to know "if anyone else hear(d) that ringing noise". When the other technicians expressed discomfort about their lunch being disrupted in this manner, Technician P [REDACTED] began loudly singing the popular Christian hymn "Amazing Grace"

Technician P [REDACTED] resisted all our attempts to pacify him and eluded our attempts to apply physical restraint. We lost visual in Hall C and initiated a lockdown of the facility.

Technician P [REDACTED] was shortly thereafter found deceased on the floor of the duct

room. His phone was nearby with the browser opened to the Wikipedia page for lobotomies. It appears he was attempting to extirpate the ringing noise from his head by taking an electric drill to his frontal lobe.

When Technician D [REDACTED] began to exhibit similar symptoms hours later, she was immediately physically restrained. Her auditory hallucinations grew gradually worse until she required sedation. Upon emerging from sedation, the ringing had stopped and Technician D [REDACTED] appeared to suffer no long-term physical or psychological damage (at least, beyond the minimum that would be expected).

Technician P [REDACTED]'s emergency contact was notified immediately and an edible arrangement was mailed to next-of-kin as-is standard procedure.

F. Storage and Precautions Advised in the Event of Future Transport

Assets have been stored in a standard medium-sized locker in XL section.

In the event of need for future transport, the Assets should be moved by a team of at least three people.

Supervisors should perform periodic remote check-ins.

Under no circumstances should the recordings ever be digitized for in the wrong hands they could be an extinction-level threat to the human race.