

THE RECORDINGS OF EDNA HICKS

An Annotated Tentative Name-Discography

HICKS, Edna, born: New Orleans, 1895, died: Chicago, August 16, 1925
Half-sister of Lizzie Miles. She first married producer/leader Will Benbow, divorced him pre 1923 (he later married girl known as Baby Benbow) and she later married John Hicks. Toured on TOBA circuit, was in 'Follow me'. Died at her home in Chicago, from flaming gasoline bein used for cleaning. Recorded with Fletcher Henderson. Many other recordings. (W.C. Allen, Hendersonia)

Storyville 158-80 (671) has an interesting note as to Edna Hicks' family circle (Lizzie Miles, Herb Morand, Maurice Morand).

This personelo-discography is based on RUST, JAZZ AND RAGTIME RECORDS 1897 - 1942.

Personnels are taken from this source, but modified in the light of earlier or subsequent research or on the strength of my own listening, discussed with our listening group or other interested collectors.

- Documented, most certain and aurally absolutely obvious identifications are listed thus: *Edna Hicks*
- Probable, generally agreed, but not documented identifications are listed in italics, thus: *Edna Hicks*
- Not attributable identifications – although the musician in question might be an otherwise well-known person – are listed thus: unknown
- If a possible identification for an otherwise unknown musician is suggested by the author without the possibility to prove the factual evidence, it is listed thus: (*Edna Hicks*)

When feeling certain without a musician's documented presence, I have not refrained from altering Rust's statements without using italics. In any case, my statements are open to discussion and I would appreciate any contribution - pro or contra!

As always in my discographies on this website I have written recording sessions with their headings, dates, titles and names of musicians in italics, whenever I am convinced that the eponymous musician of this discography is not part of the accompanying group of this session! Documented names of musicians if known – in recording ledgers or on record labels – are listed in bold letters.

This discography still is - and will certainly be - a work in progress for a long time, if not eternally. Yet, on the way to a definite discography of all jazz recordings before 1942 - which certainly will never be possible - it is intended to fill some gaps that have not been treated before.

The following statements and the resulting list of recordings only reflect the opinion of this writer/listener and are open to discussion. More so, discussion is eagerly invited. Corrections, amendments and controversial opinions are much appreciated.

EDNA HICKS

001 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Mar. 08, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc, pno		
Sugar Blues	Vic unissued	not on LP/CD

As no test pressing of this item seems to have been found, nothing can be said about this recording.

Notes:

- Rust*3,*4,*6: own p.
- BGR*2: not listed.
- BGR*3,*4: own p.

002 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Mar. 21, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Phil Ohman - pno		
27665-3 I'm Goin' Away (Just To Wear You Off My Mind)	Vic 19083,	Document DOCD-5428
27666 Sugar Blues	Vic unissued	not on LP/CD

All discographies agree on Phil Ohman as pianist. This player was white and appeared on record with The Happy Six (1920), Marion Harris (1924), and together with Victor Arden (1930).

Notes:

- Rust*3,*4,*6: Phil Ohman -p.
- BGR*2,*3,*4: Phil Ohman, pno

003 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Apr. 10, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Clarence Johnson - pno		
27665-8 I'm Goin' Away (Just To Wear You Off My Mind)	Vic uniss. on 78,	Document DOCD-5627
27666 Sugar Blues	Vic unissued	not on LP/CD

Notes:

- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: unknown p.*
- *Rust*3,*4,*6: Clarence Johnson -p.*
- *BGR*2,*3,*4: Clarence Johnson, pno*

004 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Jun. 18, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Clarence Johnson - pno		
10861 Gulf Coast Blues	Br 2463,	Document DOCD-5428
10865/67 You're Always Messin' 'Round With My Man	Br unissued	not on LP/CD
10871/63 Triflin' Blues	Br unissued	not on LP/CD
10878 Down-Hearted Blues	Br 2463,	Document DOCD-5428

Notes:

- *Rust*3,*4,*6: Clarence Johnson -p.*
- *BGR*2,*3,*4: Clarence Johnson, pno*

005 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Jul. 06, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Porter Grainger - pno		
8436-A Sad 'n' Lonely Blues	Gnt 5195,	Document DOCD-5428 ?
8436-B Sad 'n' Lonely Blues	Gnt 5195,	Document DOCD-5654
8437-A Bleeding Hearted Blues	Gnt 5195,	Document DOCD-5428
8437-B Bleeding Hearted Blues	Gnt 5195,	Document DOCD-5654

Notes:

- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Porter Grainger (p).*
- *Rust*3,*4,*6: Porter Grainger -p.*
- *BGR*2,*3,*4: Porter Grainger, pno*

006 EDNA HICKS	New York,	c. Aug. 07, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Clarence Johnson - pno		
11813 Walking And Talking Blues	Voc 14650,	Document DOCD-5428
11814 Walking And Talking Blues	Voc 14650,	not on LP/CD

As the name of the accompanist is documented on the record label there is no reason for doubt. This performance should serve as a measure for Clarence Johnson's style.

Notes:

- *Rust*3,*4,*6: Clarence Johnson -p.*
- *BGR*2,*3,*4: Clarence Johnson, pno*

007 EDNA HICKS Fletcher Henderson's Orchestra	New York,	Aug. 08, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Elmer Chambers – tpt; Teddy Nixon – tbn;		
Don Redman – clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten;		
Fletcher Henderson – pno; Charlie Dixon - bjo		
11815 You've Got Everything A Sweet Mama Needs But Me	Voc 14650,	Document DOCD-5627
11816 You've Got Everything A Sweet Mama Needs But Me	Gmn 7003,	Document DOCD-5428

W.C.Allen, p.69: "On matrix 11815, the last quarter-inch of grooves are blank, without any sound; the ingeneers must have decided that the customer was entitled to more music for his money, so the next take, 11816, has a coda by the tenor sax player added at the end of the selection. This man was Coleman Hawkins, and this is the first record with Fletcher Henderson on which he can definitely be recognized." Attentive listening reveals the correctness and general accordance of this listed personnel. Howard Scott did not enter the Henderson band before November 1923.

Notes:

- *Delaunay: Fletcher Henderson and his Orchestra*
- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Howard Scott, Elmer Chambers (cor); Charlie Green (tbn); unknown (clt); Don Redman, (alt); Coleman Hawkins(ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); Charlie Dixon (bj); Bob Escudero (bs); Kaiser Marshall (d)*
- *Rust*3: Elmer Chambers and/or Howard Scott - c; Teddy Nixon - tb; Edgar Campbell - cl; Don Redman, as; Coleman Hawkins - ts; Fletcher Henderson - p; Charlie Dixon - bj; Kaiser Marshall -d*
- *BGR*2,*3: Elmer Chambers or Howard Scott, tpt; Teddy Nixon, tbn; Edgar Campbell, clt; Don Redman, alt; Coleman Hawkins, bass-sax; Fletcher Henderson, pno; Charlie Dixon, bjo; Kaiser Marshall, d*
- *WCAllen p69: Elmer Chambers – cornet; prob Teddy Nixon – trombone; Don Redman – clarinet; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson – piano; prob Charlie Dixon – banjo*

- Rust*4: Elmer Chambers -c; ? Teddy Nixon -tb; Don Redman -cl; unknown -as; ? Billy Fowler -bsx; Fletcher Henderson -p; Charlie Dixon -bj
 - BGR*4: Elmer Chamberst, cnt; Teddy Nixon, tbn; Don Redman, cl; Coleman Hawkins, ts; Fletcher Henderson, pno; Charlie Dixon, bjo; Kaiser Marshall, d
 - Rust*6: Elmer Chambers -c; ? Teddy Nixon -tb; Don Redman -cl; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p; Charlie Dixon -bj

008 EDNA HICKS		New York,	Aug. 18, 1923
Edna Hicks - voc;			
Lemuel Fowler - pno			
8470-A	Tin Roof Blues	Gnt 5234,	Document DOCD-5428
8471-A	Oh Daddy Blues	Gnt 5234,	Document DOCD-5428

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Lem Fowler (p)*.
 - Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Lem Fowler (p).
 - Rust*3,*4,*6: Lem Fowler -p.
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Lemuel Fowler, pno

009 EDNA HICKS		New York,	Aug. 24, 1923
Edna Hicks - voc;			
Lemuel Fowler - pno			
11886 / 87	Wicked Dirty Fives	Voc 14659,	Document DOCD-5428
11890	Squawkin' The Blues	Voc 14659,	Document DOCD-5428

As the name of the accompanist is documented on the record label there is no reason for doubt. This performance should serve as a measure for Lem Fowler's style.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Lem Fowler (p)*.
 - Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Lem Fowler (p).
 - Rust*3,*4,*6: Lem Fowler -p.
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Lemuel Fowler, pno

010 EDNA HICKS		New York,	c. Sep. 03, 1923
Edna Hicks - voc;			
Lemuel Fowler - pno			
8498	Satisfied Blues (A Barrelhouse Blues)	Gnt 5252,	Document DOCD-5428
8498-A	Satisfied Blues (A Barrelhouse Blues)	Gnt 5252	not on LP/CD
8499	No Name Blues (Some Blues)	Gnt 5252,	Document DOCD-5428
8499-A	No Name Blues (Some Blues)	Gnt 5252	not on LP/CD

Note: one take of each title is on CD Document DOCD-5428, given without letter designation. Rust*6 lists two takes -? and -A for the first title, and -A and -B for the second titles.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Lem Fowler (p)*.
 - Jazz Directory Vol. 4: not listed.
 - Rust*3,*4,*6: Lem Fowler -p.
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Lemuel Fowler, pno

011 EDNA HICKS	Henderson's Hot Four	New York,	early Sep. 1923
Edna Hicks - voc;			
Elmer Chambers - tpt;	Coleman Hawkins - ten;		
Fletcher Henderson - pno;	Charlie Dixon - bjo		
	Just Thinkin' (A Blues)	Ajax 17006,	Document DOCD-5428

Notes:

- Jazz Directory Vol. 4: not listed.
 - Rust*3: prob Elmer Chambers or Joe Smith -c; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p; Charlie Dixon -bj.
 - BGR*2: Joe Smith, cnt; Coleman Hawkins, ten; Fletcher Henderson, pno; prob Charlie Dixon, bjo.
 - Rust*4,*6: Elmer Chambers -c; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p; Charlie Dixon -bj.
 - BGR*3,*4: Elmer Chambers, cnt; Coleman Hawkins, ten; Fletcher Henderson, pno; Charlie Dixon, bjo.

012 EDNA HICKS		New York,	Sep. 24, 1923
Edna Hicks - voc;			
Lemuel Fowler - pno			
81227	Daddy, Ease It To Me	Col unissued	not on LP/CD
81228-1	No Name Blues	Col 14001-D,	Document DOCD-5428

Lem Fowler's name is documented on the record label.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Lem Fowler (p)*.
 - Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Lem Fowler (p).

- Rust*3,*4,*6: Lem Fowler -p.
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Lemuel Fowler, pno

013 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Oct. 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Porter Grainger – pno, org (1)		
'Tain't A Doggone Thing But The Blues	Ajax 17006,	Document DOCD-5428
Mistreatin' Daddy	Ajax 17008,	Document DOCD-5428
Save Your Man And Satisfy Your Soul	Ajax 17008,	Document DOCD-5428

Notes:

- Jazz Directory Vol. 4: not listed.
 - Rust*3,*4: Porter Grainger -p
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Porter Grainger, org (1), pno (2,3)
 - Rust*6: Porter Grainger -p (2,3), -o (1)

014 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Oct. 11, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Porter Grainger – pno		
81278-2 Save Your Man And Satisfy Your Soul	Col 14001-D,	Document DOCD-5428

Porter Grainger's name is documented on the record label.

Notes:

- Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Porter Grainger (p).
 - Rust*3,*4,*6: Porter Grainger -p
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Porter Grainger, pno

015 EDNA HICKS	New York,	early Nov. 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Charles Matson – pno		
1549-1 Kansas City Man Blues	Pm 12069	not on LP/CD
1549-2 Kansas City Man Blues	Pm 12069,	Document DOCD-5428
1550-1 Uncle Sam Blues	Pm 12069,	Document DOCD-5428
1550-3 Uncle Sam Blues	Pm 12069	not on LP/CD

Charles A. Watson is documented on the record label of matrix 1550, but the correct identity of this pianist has obviously been acknowledged early on in jazz research.

Notes:

- Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Charles A. Watson (p).
 - Rust*3: Charles A. Matson -p.
 - BGR*2: Charles Matson, pno (despite the label of 1550-1, -3!)
 - Rust*4,*6: Charles A. Matson -p ("Watson" on some labels).
 - BGR*3,*4: Charles A. Matson, p.

016 EDNA HICKS	New York,	Nov. 21, 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Don Redman – clt; Fletcher Henderson – pno		
81366 Chicago Bound Blues	Col unissued	not on LP/CD

As no test pressing of this item seems to have been found, nothing can be said about this recording.

Notes:

- Jazz Directory Vol. 4: not listed.
 - Rust*3,*4: Don Redman -cl; Fletcher Henderson -p.
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Don Redman, clt; Fletcher Henderson, pno

017 EDNA HICKS	New York,	c. Nov. 1923
Edna Hicks – voc;		
Porter Grainger – pno		
31013-2 Kind Lovin' Blues	Ajax 17012,	Document DOCD-5428
31014-2 Goin' Home	Ajax 17012,	Document DOCD-5428
<i>Note: Rust*3,*4,*6 list matrix 31014 with the title 'I Don't Love Nobody (So I Don't Have No Blues)!'</i>		

Notes:

- Rust*3,*4,*6: Porter Grainger -p
 - BGR*2,*3,*4: Porter Grainger, pno

018 EDNA HICKS	New York,	late Dec. 1923
Porter Grainger's Sawin' Three		
Edna Hicks – voc;		
unknown – tpt; Ernest Elliott – clt, alt; Porter Grainger – pno		
1629-2 Hard Luck Blues	Pm 12023,	Document DOCD-5431

1629-3	Hard Luck Blues	Pm 12023	not on LP/CD
1630-2	I Don't Love Nobody So I Don't Have No Blues	Pm 12023,	Document DOCD-5431
1631-1	Cemetery Blues	Pm 12023	not on LP/CD
1631-2	Cemetery Blues	Pm 12089,	Document DOCD-5431
1632-2	Poor Me Blues	Pm 12089,	Document DOCD-5431
1632-3	Poor Me Blues	Pm 12089	not on LP/CD

Rust*6: *The band is identified as shown above (? Elmer Chambers, c; Hooks Tilford, cl; Porter Grainger, p) only on Paramount 12089.* But on this very coupling we have an alto, no clarinet, and this alto is unmistakably Ernest Elliott. Whether the trumpet player might be Chambers would have to be verified! If only Chambers would have been able to blow a low-down cornet as this player here does. Quite obviously this player comes from a western/Chicago background and shows traces of Ladnier's style. But I feel unable to name any possibility of his identity, only that he certainly is not Chambers.

In fact, this reedman sounds like an epitome of Ernest Ellinott! When listening to these titles it immediately becomes apparent, that they make a perfect example of Elliott's style and performance! But Rust *6 lists Hooks Tilford as reed man! So, where does this information come from? Can anybody tell me?

It has proved to be impossible to find out any connection between Hooks Tilford and Edna Hicks from any Storyville issue. Storyville 2002/3 features a list of Edna Hicks' documented engagements, but nothing is said of Hooks Tilford at the appropriate place. Tilford mainly was busy in the jug band scene of Louisville, Kentucky, but he also accompanied Ma Rainey on a couple of sides in 1925. It is not documented that he ever reached New York City, although this certainly cannot be excluded. Tilford's activities in 1923 are not documented anywhere. His only recording activities are with Ma Rainey's Georgia Band in Chicago in July 1925 and with Phillips' Louisville Jug Band – on c-melody-sax – in August 1930 at the same place. His other known activities seem to have been restricted to the Louisville, Kentucky, region (see 'The Jugbands of Louisville', Storyville 155 et al.). Comparison of Tilford's style as shown on Ma Rainey's 1925 recordings to these Hicks titles show remarkable differences which do not allow to list him as performer here. And certainly, this player definitely is not Don Redman! On piano we certainly have Mr. Grainger, the group's leader, whose piano playing is absolutely compatible with Grainger's style known from other recordings.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Elmer Chambers (tp); Buster Bailey (cl); Fletcher Henderson (p).*
- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: unknown cnt; unknown clt; unknown sax; Porter Grainger, pno.*
- Rust*3,*4: ?Elmer Chambers -c; Don Redman -cl; Porter Grainger -p
- BGR*2,*3: unknown cnt; unknown alt, sop; Porter Grainger, pno.
- BGR*4: unknown, c; unknown, ss (1,2), as (3,4); Porter Grainger, pno.
- Rust*6: ?Elmer Chambers -c; Hooks Tilford -cl; Porter Grainger -p. "The band is identified as shown above (E. Chambers, H. Tilford, P. Grainger) only on Paramount 12089."

019	EDNA HICKS Fletcher Henderson's Trio	New York,	late Dec. 1923/early Jan. 1924
	Edna Hicks – voc;		
	Joe Smith – cnt; Don Redman – clt; Fletcher Henderson – pno		
1633-2	Where Can That Somebody Be?	Pm 12090,	Document DOCD-5431
1634-2	If You Don't Give Me What I Want (I'm Gonna Get It Somewhere Else)	Pm 12090,	Document DOCD-5431

W.C. Allen, p.96: "Personnel based on aural comparison with Smith's contemporary recorded solos." Very beautiful Joe Smith on cornet/trumpet who certainly was not a member of the band that early. But obviously Henderson kept a liking for him. Allen does not say anything decidedly about the clarinetist, who certainly may be Redman, but there is too little to be judged from, and the player might also be somebody else.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948/1963: Elmer Chambers (tp); Buster Bailey (cl); Fletcher Henderson (p).*
- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Elmer Chambers (cor); unknown (clt); Fletcher Henderson (p)*
- Rust*3: prob Joe Smith or Howard Scott -c; Edgar Campbell or Don Redman -cl; Fletcher Henderson – p
- BGR*2: Joe Smith, cnt; Don Redman, clt; Fletcher Henderson, pno
- BGR*3: Joe Smith, cnt; prob Don Redman, clt; Fletcher Henderson, p
- WCAAllen p68: Joe Smith, cornet; prob Don Redman, clarinet; Fletcher Henderson, piano
- Rust*4: Joe Smith –c; ?Don Redman –cl; Fletcher Henderson –p
- BGR*4: Joe Smith, cnt; prob Don Redman, clt; Fletcher Henderson, p
- Rust*6: Joe Smith –c; ?Don Redman –cl; Fletcher Henderson –p

020	EDNA HICKS Lovie Austin and her Blues Serenaders	Chicago,	Mar. 1924
	Edna Hicks - voc;		
	Tommy Ladnier – cnt; Jimmy O'Bryant – clt; Horace Diemer – alt;		
	Lovie Austin - pno		
1710-2	Down On The Levee Blues	Pm 12204,	Jazzedit CDJE-1 (CD-ROM)
1711-2	Lonesome Woman Blues	Pm 12204,	Jazzedit CDJE-1 (CD-ROM)

These two sides seem to be decidedly rare as they only appear on Dan Vernhettes' and Bo Lindström's CD-Rom accompanying their phantastic biography of Tommy Ladnier - an absolutely superb work of biographical/discographical scholarship! The famous Tommy Ladnier strangely does only appear at the beginnings and the ends of both titles in very retained fashion. There are no instrumental solos inserted in the vocal choruses, but all singing is accompanied by O'Bryant's clarinet under Johnny Dodds' spell and a very uneventful alto sax playing. Rust*6 names this player as Horace Diemer, an alto saxophonist who took part in Ollie Powers' Harmony Syncopators session producing six consecutive takes of 'Play That Thing' (see Howard Rye, *The Diemer Family of Springfield, Missouri, Names&Numbers 43*). Lovie Austin accompanies on piano.

Notes:

- *Jazz Directory Vol. 4: Tommy Ladnier, (cor); Jimmy O'Bryant (clt); Lovie Austin (p)*
- Rust*3,*4: Tommy Ladnier -c; Jimmy O'Bryant -cl; Lovie Austin -p.
- BGR*2,*3,*4: Tommy Ladnier, cnt; Jimmy O'Bryant, clt; Lovie Austin, pno.
- Rust*6: Tommy Ladnier, c; Jimmy O'Bryant, cl; Horace Diemer, as; Lovie Austin, p.

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