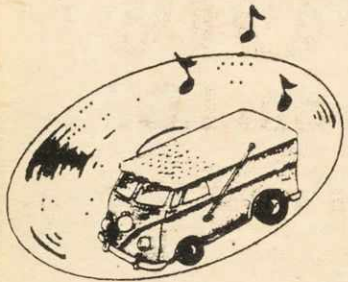


Where you can find that special album

by Kenneth Newman

Tired of listening to BBC short-wave and finding out you can't get a copy of so and so's new record cuz the guy at your local record store has never heard of 'em and never will and doesn't give a good goddam anyway? Tired of reading about great bands in the Village Voice, NME, etc. whose records you can't find? Ever feel there's a whole lot of great music going on in this world that you'll never hear simply because you live in Nova Scotia? There is an alternative -mail order.

With this in mind, here is a short sampling of some companies it might be well worth your while checking out. Write to them and ask for a catalog. You'll find there's all sorts of things out there.



1. Wayside Music

P.O. Box 6517
Wheaton, Maryland
20906 USA

Wayside, run by the amiable Steve Feigenbaum, is perhaps the best one around. He specializes in cut-out and rare records of exceptional value, so his prices are extremely low and his selection impeccable. His catalog runs the gamut from Eno to Sun Ra to Stockhausen. He provides little reviews in his catalog which are generally honest and accurate. Of special interest are his completely reliable same-day service and personal correspondence.

2. Rough Trade

326, 6th Street
San Francisco, California
94103

This is the American branch of the British company but you'll get better service from this side of the Atlantic. They have an extensive catalog of their own, subsidiary and friendly labels that lean generally toward the new wave, post new-wave side, and they always have the latest Next Big Thing in stock. Their prices, while not cheap, are competitive and most of their selections are not reliably obtainable elsewhere. A definite must for sophisticated *jeunes moderne*.

3. Eurock Distribution

P.O. Box 4141
Torrance, California
90510 USA

Eurock is run by perhaps the most dedicated promotor of European progressive rock music in North America, Archie Patterson. A few years back he cut out of a large company and started up his own. While his catalog is not quite humungous yet it does feature some great selections. Of particular interest is his cassette selection of private releases by artists ranging from the unknown to the little known. Unfortunately, there are some real duds in his catalog so you never know you've got a turkey till you've already shelled out the bucks. Also, his little blurbs are designed more to sell the product than to tell you what it's like. But you'll be missing out on a lot of great stuff by not investing a stamp to check it out. His service is fast and reliable.

Archie also puts out a magazine, called *EUROCK*, which, if you're into what used to be called progressive rock, is well worth subscribing to. And, finally, if you're a local

band looking for distribution for a privately produced cassette, his is the best in North America (i.e. he won't rip you off and if he can't sell your tape, no one can).

4. Recommended Records

583 Wandsworth Road
London, S.W. 8
England, U.K.

Recommended is personally run by Chris Cutler, perhaps the world's best rock drummer (he's played with Henry Cow, the Art Bears and the Residents). This company is a

though: his employees don't get paid (they do it for the revolution) so sometimes the service can be somewhat sloppy. But then again, you sometimes get little "gifts" you didn't order or pay for. A major plus is his "cultural heritage" series which keeps such people in stock as Phil Ochs, Captain Beefheart and even Van Dyke Parks.

5. New Music Distribution

500 Broadway
New York City, New York
10012 USA

enough they could really radicalize the music biz on this continent.

6. JEM

3619 Kennedy Road
S. Plainfield, New Jersey
07080 USA

This is a BIG BIZ company and most of what you'll find in their catalog are records that could and would be in your local record store if your local dealer weren't too lazy, apathetic or financially paranoid to order them for you. However, buying direct does cut out some of the middle man costs. Their catalog features the better known bands on import pressings. It's worth having, at least as a reference guide. And if you absolutely must have the latest Kate Bush on German green vinyl, then these are the folks for you.

All the above are distribution services which have been tested for quality, service and value. The following are services which may be just as good but simply haven't been tested yet. It might be worth it to check out their catalogs and see.

7. Systematic

Berkeley Industrial Ct. 1
729 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California
94710 USA

8. Sky-Disc

101-32 Dupont Street
Plainview, New York
11803 USA

9. WIN

45-50 38th Street
Long Island City, NY
11101 USA

10. Dutchy's Records

1605 St. Lawrence Blvd.
Montreal, Quebec

11. Kinnara

4324 N. Elston Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
60641 USA

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HARD-TO-FIND records in rock field! Send for catalogue with wants to Adultium Records, PO Box 103, Tappan, NY 10983

STONES, DOORS coll. from 99c. Catalogue \$2. Wonderwall, Suite 1505, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2R 3G7

GET U of heavy, sette, sel 4172 W 57

THOUSANDS Zeppelin, Door, Sabbath, Spring 6354 Van Nuys, CA

labour of love. His catalog reads almost like political propaganda and if you don't mind being insulted as a member of the military-industrial complex (by virtue of residing in North America) you'll find much of interest in it. He specializes in very progressive rock which he approves of both musically and politically so not a lot gets in but what does is generally of very high quality.

Chris's motto is "Trust me", which more often than not works out OK. A word to the wise,

This is another labour of love, run by Carla Bley and Mike Mantler as a non-profit business. This means they will carry anything as long as it's on an independent label. Their prices and service are quite good, with a catalog that's one of the largest you'll ever see. Their stocks range from academic electronic music to obscure punk bands but they're strongest on progressive and avant-garde jazz. One good reason for dealing with these people is that their hearts are definitely in the right place, and if supported

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