

The Paris Pepper-Pot

Continued from Page 1.

monarch in pre-war Europe, and many times for the private parties of the late King Edward, as well as for the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and the King of Spain. He showed us a great star of gold and silver, such as generals and admirals wear, that had been given him by the Pasha of Constantinople, also letters from Strauss, composer of

the "Blue Danube," and the "Merry Widow," waltzes. He said that when he was in Vienna conducting an orchestra of thirty pieces, Strauss came to hear him almost nightly in order to study the spirit of syncopation, and that he was often a guest at Strauss's home.

In Vienna, he said that he took over the Southern Syncopated Orchestra from William Marion Cook. With him at the time was Abby Mitchell and Buddy Gilmore, of whom he speaks highly.

Wellmon is not only a bandmaster, a marvel on the drum, a composer, a master of syncopation and opera played in jazz, but he is a lightning change artist and a comedian. Once he worked as understudy for Bert Williams, and appeared in his role.

He came to Europe in 1909, and made a big hit from the start. He and his partner, Carlisle, played all the big houses in the British Isles at a salary of \$3,500 a week until their

partnership was dissolved. He has also written some 250 songs, and ran a publishing firm of his own in London for several years. His works are now being published by English firms.

Some years ago he conducted a colored syncopated orchestra in Paris at the Champs Elysees theatre. The Paris-Midi said of him then, "The conductor of the orchestra, in himself, alone, is a symphony of gold, black and sky-blue. He has white gloves and he directs with the most amiable fantasy, sometimes with his arms, sometimes dancing a cake-walk, all of which sets his audience crazy with delight."

For almost a year he conducted the Maurice Bandman Opera company, all white, in Bombay, India, and returned from a tour of South America last year.

Looking over his articles, posters and programs, we saw among other things, that the English theatres and newspapers had offered a prize of \$250 to any composer who could copy his syncopation; that he was musical director for the white Y.M.C.A. (American) at Grove Park and Eagle Hut, London, during the war; and that he was the model for the fashion plate of Max Marx Brothers, New York.

He showed us a program of a great concert given at Steinway Hall, London, at which the king was present.

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Pointing to the name of John McCormack on the bill, he said, "Do you know I was instrumental in getting John McCormack his first appearance on the stage? I was with Mr. Cammeyer, the manager, trying out the artists when a young man, poorly clad, with a little bundle under his arm, entered. Timidly he asked to be given an opportunity to appear in the concert. Both Mr. Cammeyer and I had been at work all day and we were tired, and were just going to dinner. Mr. Cammeyer told McCormack pretty abruptly that he had all the talent he needed.

"But I don't believe in turning away a man like that, and speaking to Cammeyer, I began to play for McCormack.

"No sooner had he opened his mouth than I knew he'd do. He sang with such soul and feeling. Turning to Cammeyer, I whispered, 'Take him. Tie him up with a contract for five, six years.' But Cammeyer did not, and the following week McCormack

was singing in Covent Garden Opera at a big salary."
 Mrs. Wellmon is, too, a capable dancer, and before her marriage, had made a big name for herself in English vaudeville.
 Among his song hits are, "The Lily of Bermuda," "Pearl, My Girl," "After the Ball," and "Lindy Lou." He has also made several records for Columbia.

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