

THE
GUINNESS'S



BOOK

OF

RECORDERS

"That straunge and merrye tube....."

GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH 1426

Best wishes for Susan
and 1979!

Barbara

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THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDERS

A SHORT ANTHOLOGY OF FACTS
WITH WHICH ALL SERIOUS RECORDER
PLAYERS SHOULD BE ACQUAINTED

compiled by Rod Nelson



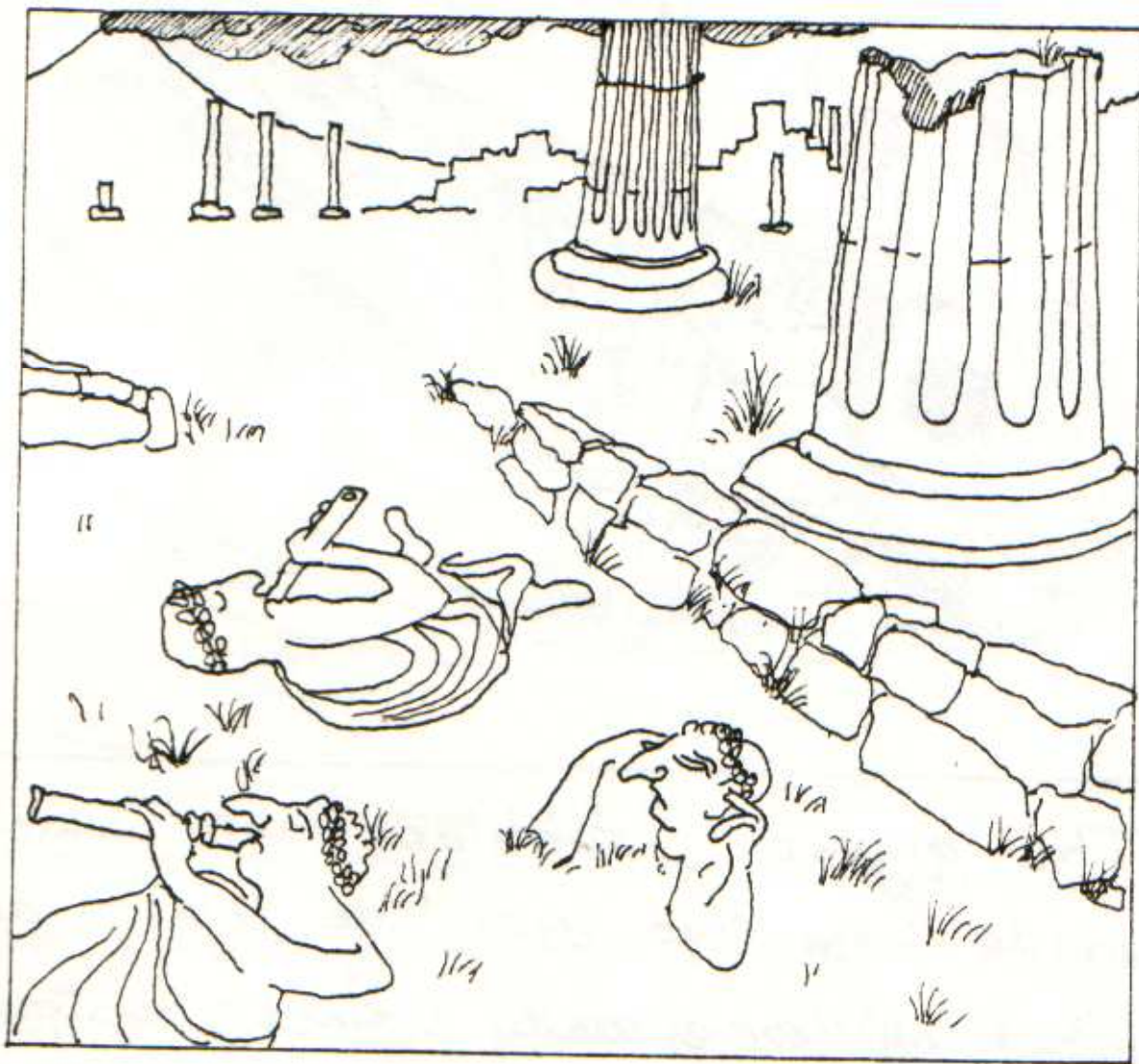
THE WRONG NOTE PRESS

BRISTOL

FOR GDS

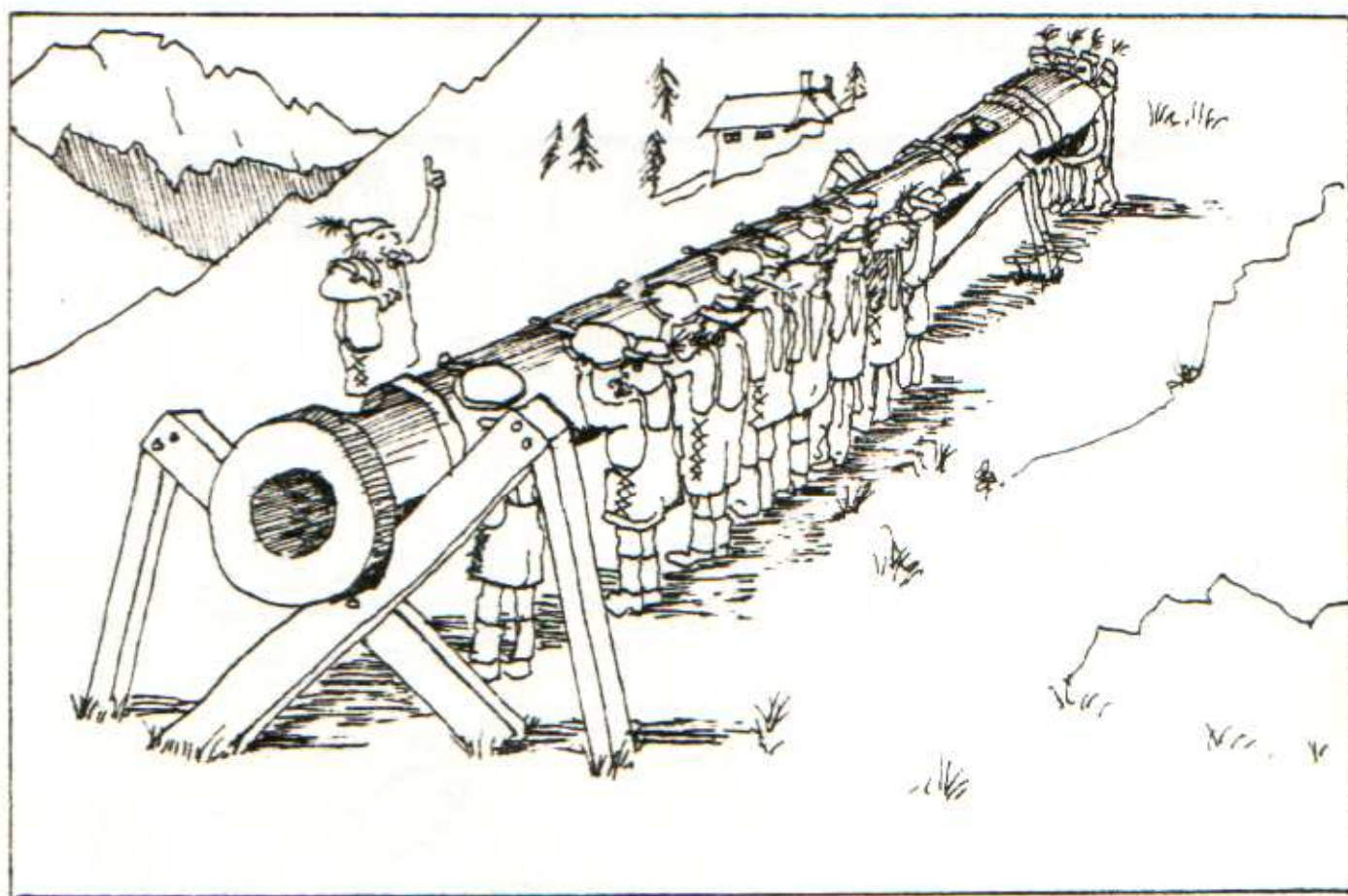
Who already knows almost everything
worth knowing about this instrument.

THE OLDEST RECORDER



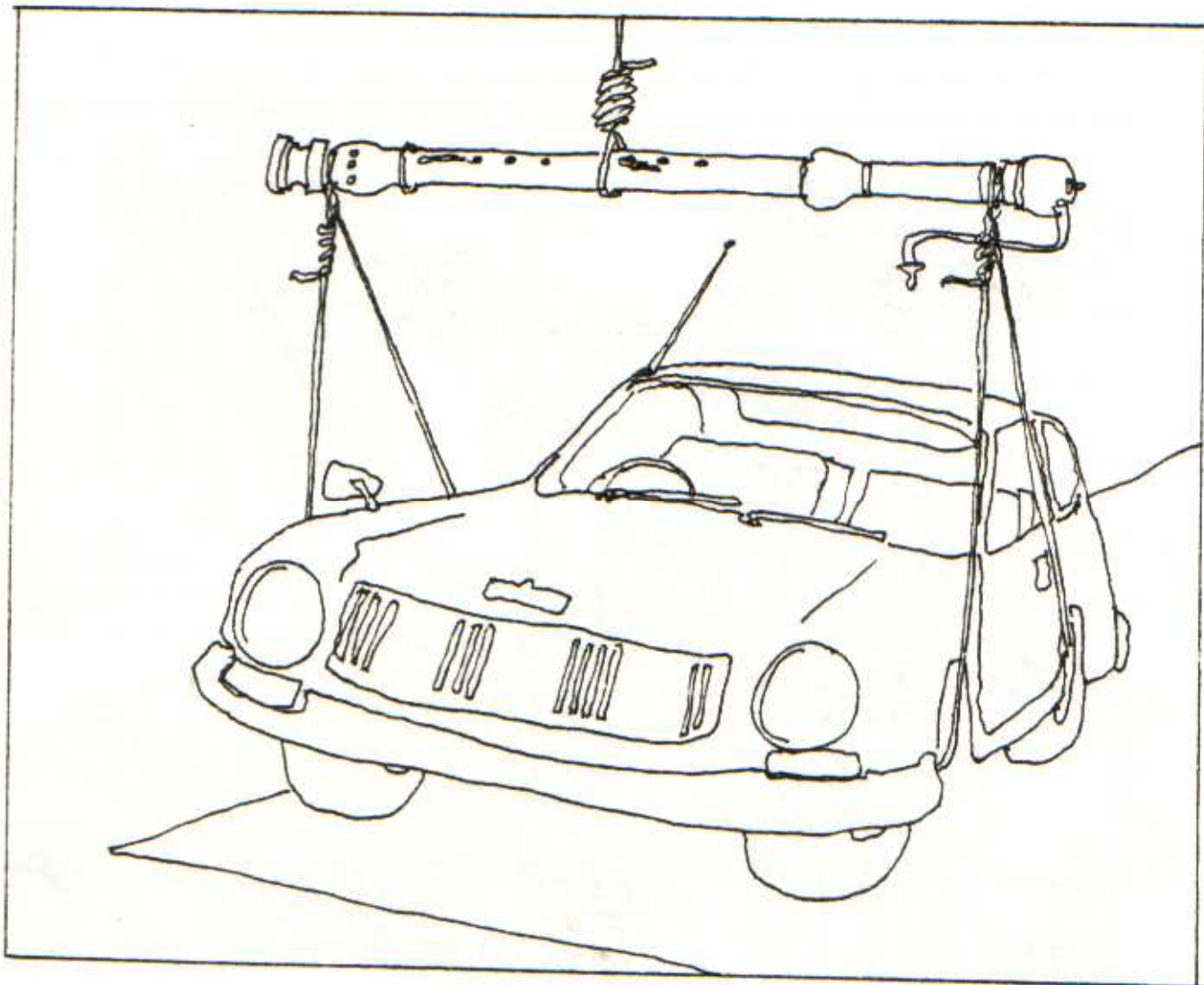
POMPEII AD 79 — remains of
a recorder consort unearthed in the
excavations of 1925 exactly as they
had been playing when engulfed by
the ashes of Vesuvius.

THE LARGEST RECORDER



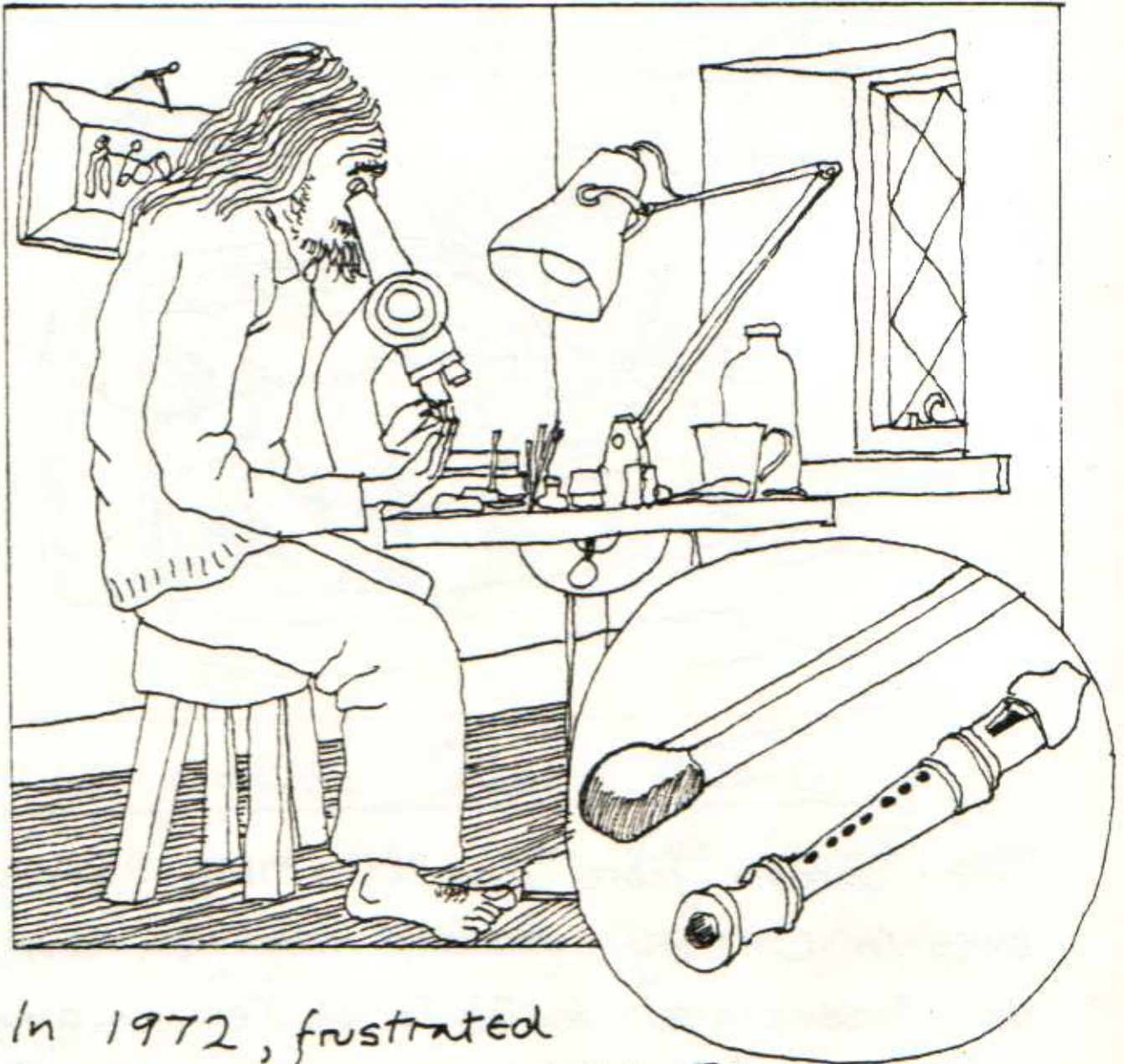
The gigantic "Alpblockflaute" which was made from two large tree trunks and blown by four specially trained Austrian villagers would sound it's massive booming note across the mountain valleys. Eight people were needed to cover the holes with large leather flaps. The last known instrument was destroyed in the war by Allied aircraft, who mistook it for Hitler's secret weapon.

THE STRONGEST RECORDER



The carbon fibre and titanium great bass in C by Arnold Katzenbaum of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has to date, resisted all attempts at destruction. These incredibly durable instruments are designed to be played in all climates, from Alice Springs to the South Pole, and even in space.

THE SMALLEST RECORDER



In 1972, frustrated Swiss watchmaker, Willi Flöckmeyer gave up his job and spent 2 years making a klein klein garflötlein in F. Unfortunately the notes produced by this tiny recorder are inaudible to the human ear.

THE LONGEST PIECE OF RECORDER MUSIC



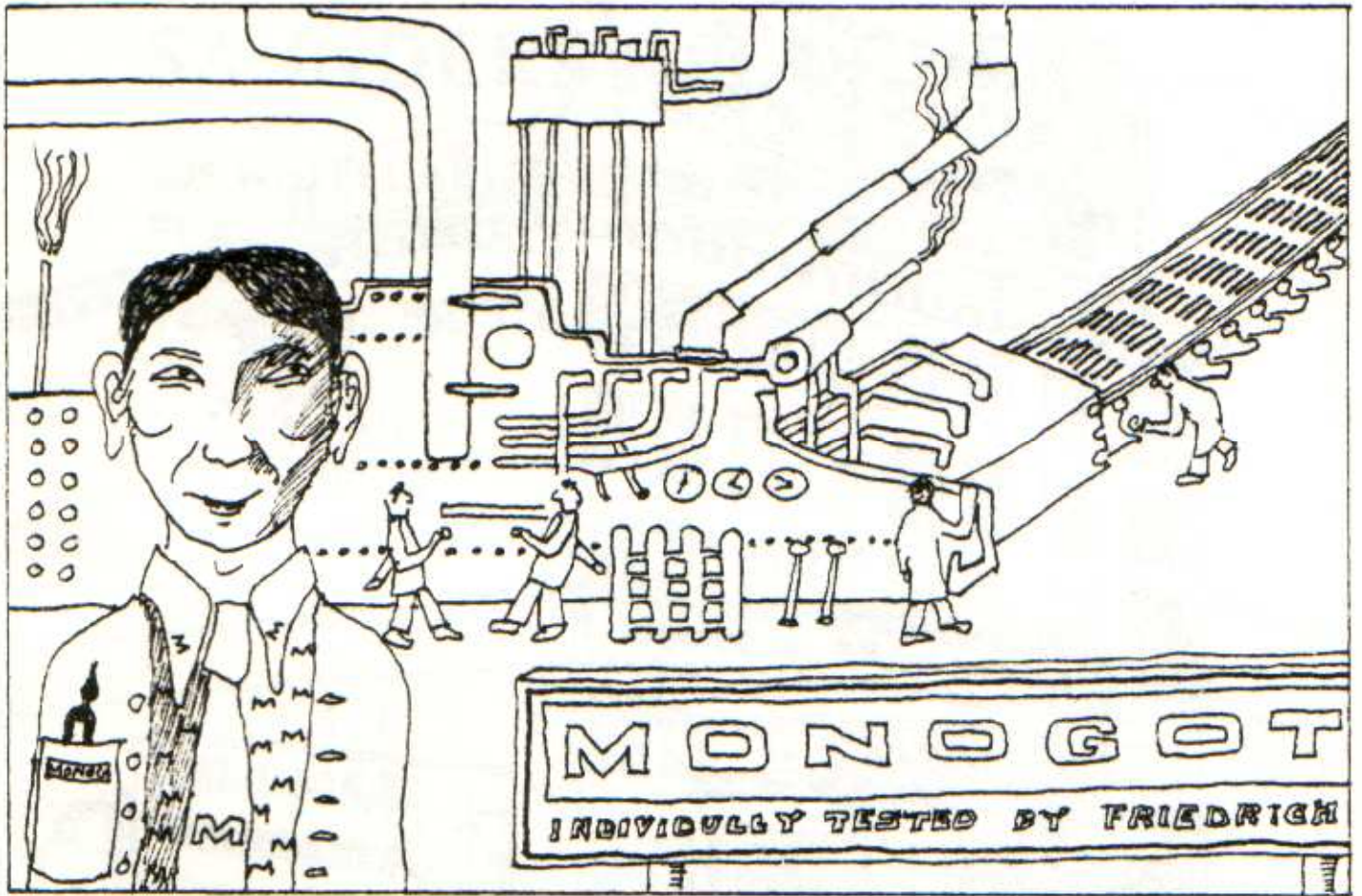
- The "Missa in Sanctum Tonalitum Contrapunctum" written in 1516 by the little-known Venetian composer, Giambattista della Turgido for two treble recorders and basso continuo, runs for a total of 11 hours and 26 minutes. It has only been performed twice, as far as it is known, once by the composer and his assistant, and once at the 1931 Haslemere Festival, where it received a less-than-enthusiastic reception.

THE WORLDS FIRST RECORDER PLAYING COMPUTER



All the human problems of tuning, intonation, tone, quality, interpretation, and accuracy are shortly to be entirely eliminated when the new computer at Cambridge University is finally complete. The entire consort repertory in three or more parts will be stored on magnetic tape, and the machine is at present being programmed to read scores.

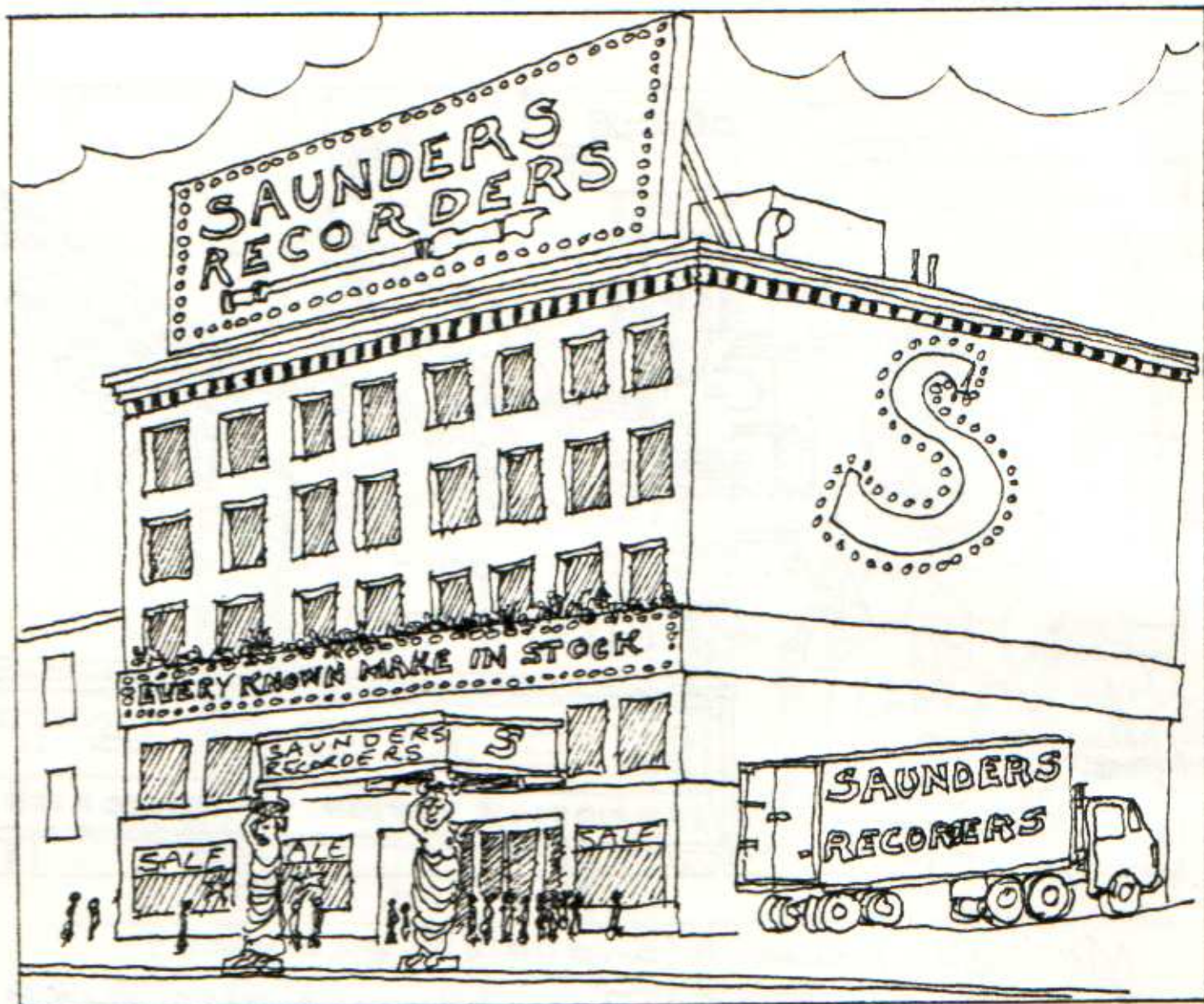
THE FASTEST RECORDER MAKER



Mr Ichabawa Monogoto's enormous factory in Kyoto, Japan, which also makes motor-cycles, hairpins, and soft woolly toys has a die casting machine which can produce 300,000 perfect descant recorders every hour. A

Staff of four persons ensures 24 hour per day output. Mr Monogoto has commissioned the world's most famous recorder designer and paid him a vast commission to ensure the very highest quality in all his instruments.

THE WORLDS' LARGEST RECORDER SHOP



The vast new Saunders Emporium in Bristol has a stock estimated at 4.3 million recorders, by every known maker. Over 30,000 people per day pass through its doors, and enjoy such amenities as a restaurant, three luxurious bars, a swimming pool, recording studio and self-service music shop. Come to Bristol now and see this wonder of the musical world.

WALTER RECHARDERS

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