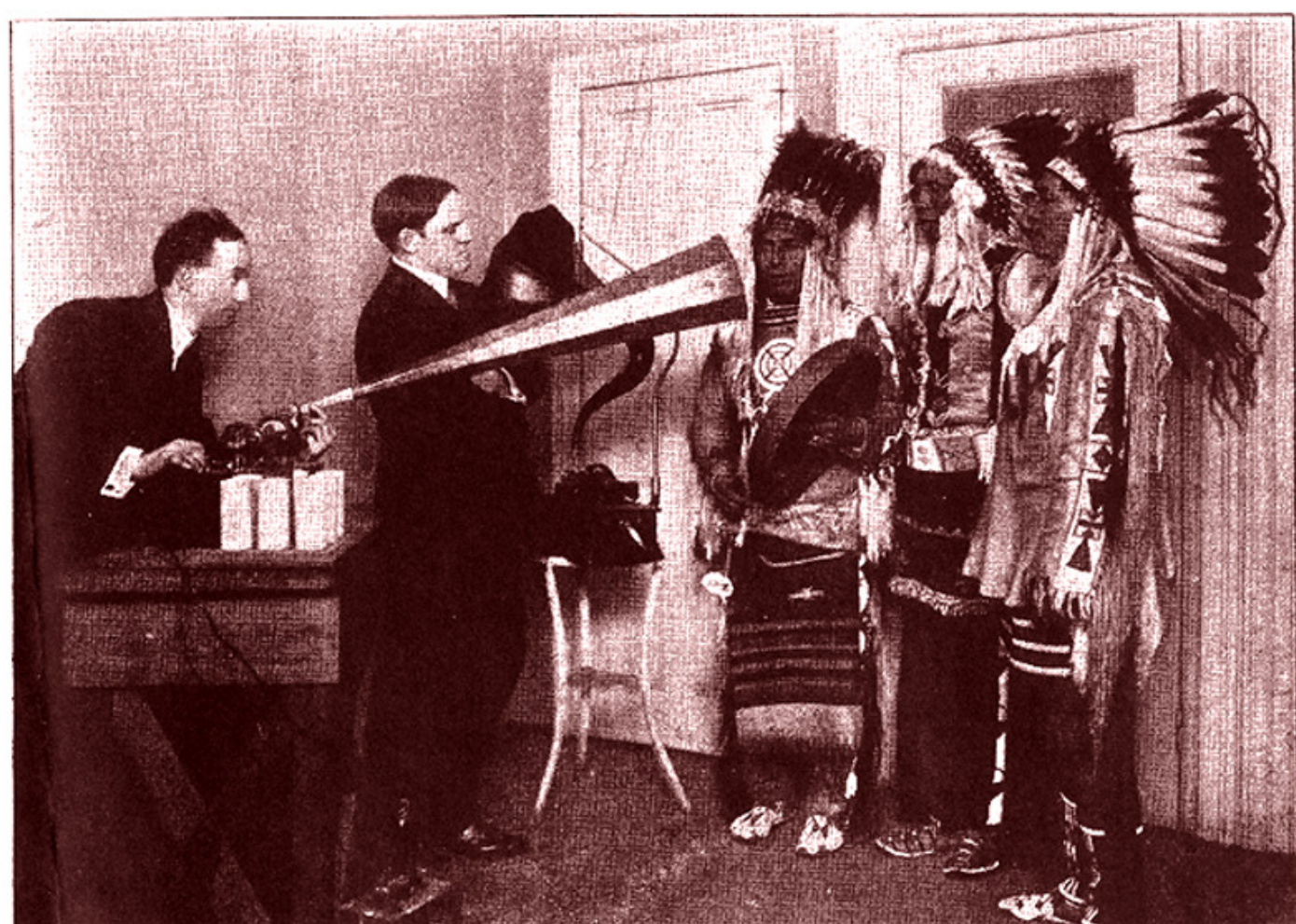


# RECORDING THE INDIAN'S MUSIC



## INDIANS SINGING FOR UNCLE SAM.

The figures from the reader's left are the recording operator, Geoffrey O'Hara, the chiefs, Medicine Owl, Big Top, and Long Time Sleep, of Glacier National Park

**T**HE FAD OF "RAG-TIME" has set going all sorts of speculations and theories regarding its origin. Most people instinctively assign it to the negro; but the Indian also, according to Miss Natalie Curtis, is to be credited with a hand in it. The syncopation, which is a predominant feature of all rag-time, as she observes in *The Craftsman*, "is an absolutely essential element in the songs of our North American Indians of many tribes." Miss Curtis, who is an authority on the music of our aboriginal tribes, insinuates that here, indeed, may be the ultimate source of this peculiar rhythm, for "doubtless the negroes in the South heard the tom-tom and the sharply accentuated rhythms of Indian song from the surrounding tribes with whom they mixt to some extent prior to the removal of the Southern Indians to Indian Territory."

In connection with this insistent inquiry, if for no higher motive, it is interesting to record that Mr. Geoffrey O'Hara, recently appointed by the Interior Department at Washington to record the tribal songs and music of all American Indians, began his work in New York City by taking his first phonographic records of the songs of the Blackfeet Indians who were here on a visit from Glacier National Park, Montana. *Musical America* (New York) gives these statements:

"During the stay of the red men in New York, Mr. O'Hara is having them sing into phonographs, and the records will be sent on to Washington to be put in the Government archives, thereby preserving for all time the music of the original Americans, who are rapidly passing to the Happy Hunting Grounds.

"The accompanying picture shows the Indians singing to the phonographs under the direction of Mr. O'Hara. The Indians could hardly grasp the idea at first of how they could sing into a tin horn and thereby record their music. After the first song had been sung, however, the reproduction was given them in a few minutes and the magic of the operation was bewildering to them. They thought it was the most wonderful of all the wonders they have seen since their invasion of Greater New York. Mr. O'Hara will have them sing daily to his phonograph while the Indians are in New York."