

DR/202: Same Tune, Different Titles
submitted by Albert Haim

There are several examples of 1920s recordings of the same tune issued under different titles. An example from the Bix lore follows. *Flock o' Blues* – Gennett 5569. Sioux City Six; recorded October 10, 1924. Composed by Rube Bloom. *Carolina Stomp* – Columbia 509-D. Fletcher Henderson and His Orchestra; recorded October 21, 1925. Composed by Rube Bloom and Bartley Costello. [1] An interesting example of the same tune recorded under three different titles and published as sheet music with a fourth title is *Get A Load of This* – *Eddie's Twister* – *Sunshine* – *Funny Notes*. [2] The common link among these is pioneer jazz guitarist Eddie Lang.



Label image courtesy of Steve Hester

Get A Load of This was recorded on Nov 3, 1926, by the Red Heads. According to Brian Rust's Jazz Discography, the musicians are Red Nichols, cornet; Arthur Schutt, piano Eddie Lang, guitar, Vic Berton, drums. This recording was issued only in England, Pathé Actuelle 11347.

As seen on the record label, the composers are Lange-Nichols. The spelling of Eddie's last name as Lange comes from the name he used on the stage from 1920 until the end of 1926. Beginning in 1927, Eddie dropped the "e" from Lange.[3]

According to Reide Kaiser writing in the liners for Oracle Jazz CD BD 8043, "Venuti is thought to play piano." Tom Lord's discography online tells us "probably Joe Venuti."

The recording begins with a solo by Red Nichols. Eddie Lang follows playing single-note guitar on the same theme, and Red comes back with a reprise of his solo. James Sallis commented on the recording, [4] "*Eddie's solo on 'Get A Load of This' is reminiscent of Bix and was later developed by Lang in a specialty he called 'Eddie's Twister.' It became his first recorded solo piece.*"

Sunshine was recorded by Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang on January 24, 1927. The recording was issued as OKeh 40762.



Label image courtesy of Emrah Erken

It will be seen that the composer credits are assigned to Venuti-Lang. The recording consists of a series of Joe Venuti improvisations on the theme from *Get A Load of This*. Eddie Lang's role is that of an accompanist – Eddie does'nt play a solo.

Eddie's Twister was recorded on April 1, 1927, by Eddie Lang on guitar and Arthur Schutt on piano. The recording was issued in the US as Okeh 40807



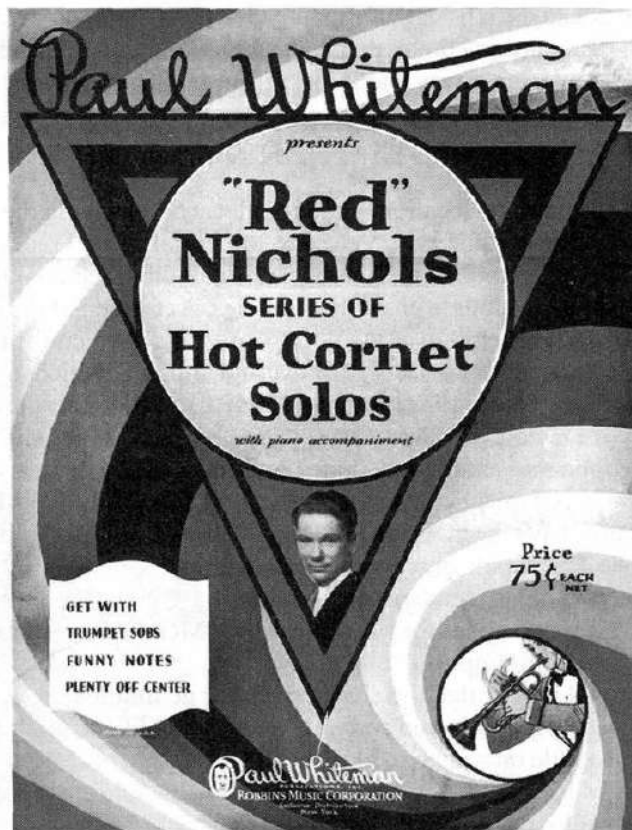
Label image courtesy of Ray Mitchell

...and in England as Parlophone R 3338.



Label image courtesy of Rob Rothberg

As seen on the record label, composer credit is given to Lang. It is noteworthy that the Okeh label describes the recording as "Ed Lang, Guitar Solo With Piano," whereas the Parlophone label specifies, in addition, the name of Arthur Schutt as the pianist. This recording consists of a series of Eddie Lang improvisations on the theme from *Get A Load of This*.



Sheet music image courtesy of Enrico Borsetti

Funny Notes was not recorded but was published as an arrangement for cornet and piano by the Robbins Music Corporation. All tunes included in Red Nichols' *Hot Cornet Solos* are compositions by Red, except *Funny Notes* which, originally titled *Get A Load of This*, was a collaboration between Lang and Nichols. The recording of *Get With* is on the flipside of *Get A Load of This*. *Trumpet Sobs* and *Plenty Off Center* were recorded by a group called *We Three* (Red Nichols, Arthur Schutt and Vic Berton, with Eddie Lang added on *Trumpet Sobs*) for Pathé on March 22, 1926. *Funny Notes* is described as a "Modern Cornet Solo" and a "Slow Blues" composed by "Red" Nichols, copyrighted 1927. The transcription follows very closely (estimated at 90 percent, [5]) Red's solo on *Get A load of This*.

[1] The November 13, 1925 recording of *Carolina Stomp* by the Cotton Pickers on Brunswick 2981 gives only Rube Bloom as composer.

[2] This was noted by Mike Peters in the booklet that accompanies the Mosaic CD set *The Classic Columbia and Okeh Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang Sessions*.

[3] From Mike Peter's website, eddielang.com

[4] *The Guitar in Jazz, An Anthology* by James Sallis, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1996.

[5] E-mail message from Enrico Borsetti, Nov 21, 2010. I thank Enrico for providing the information about *Funny Notes*.