

## WORDPLAY

## 'S Blunderful

SURE, IN AMERICAN POPULAR SONG, A "STANDARD" IS A standard (while a sigh is just a sigh), an immutable blend of melody and lyrics damn near impossible to forget. And yet, can one ever *really* know a truly great song? The Baybridge record company of Japan says no. No. At least sixteen times, no.

Consider the Baybridge LP *Lee Wiley 1944-45, With Eddie Condon All Stars*, a series of classic radio performances by a legendary jazz vocalist, accompanied by an equally legendary Chicago jazzman. The album's liner notes are, unsurprisingly, in Japanese. An *English-language* lyric sheet, however, has also been provided, for reasons that remain, well, impenetrable. Its contents are a revelation, like some newly discovered Gershwin manuscript unearthed from depths of obscurity too terrifying to ponder:

"I've Got a Crush on You," by George and Ira Gershwin:

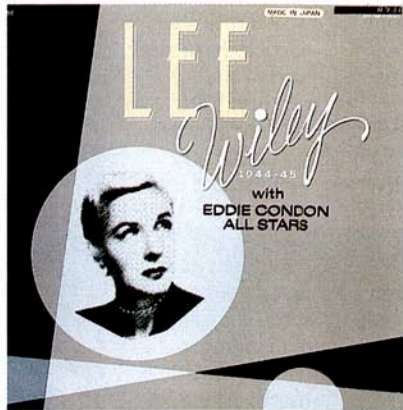
*I've got a crush on you weedy pine  
All a day'n night time hear me say  
I never heard a least notion  
That I could fall for so much in motion  
Could you coo could you care  
For a cunning tight head we could share  
The very pride and man mush  
'Cause I've got a crush my baby on you*

No, these are not the soused hallucinations of some overcooked cocktail pianist. Typographically, at least, they are all too real.

"You're Lucky to Me," by Eubie Blake and Andy Razaf:  
*My only luck charm*

*Eye are two loving aunties  
Anybody can see you're lucky to me  
Nothing can happen to me anymore  
High riding turkeys all over my door  
My mother and dad thought that my love was bad  
Anybody can see you're lucky to me*

Lee Wiley was born in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, on October 9, 1915. Eddie Condon was born in Goodland, Indiana, on November 16, 1905. Ira Gershwin grew up in New York City,



Off the record—way off.

as did Andy Razaf. Perhaps some cold, hard facts at this point would be helpful. Then again, maybe not.

"Someone to Watch Over Me," by George and Ira Gershwin:

*I love little  
men who smoke in  
the wood  
I know I could  
always be good  
To one who  
watch over me  
Poor, poor Ira*

Gershwin. Poor Yip Harburg. From Harburg and Harold Arlen's "Down With Love," the Baybridge version:  
*Down with love like liquidate all your friends  
Moon and juice and roses and rainbow end  
Down with songs with more about night and day  
Down with love yes take it away away*

BARRY SINGER