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Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger und Sammlung Alfred Seiser



BEKA Werbung / BEKA Advertisement 1907 (Phonographische Zeitschrift 8(26) (1907) 655, 27.6.1907)

Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger und Sammlung Alfred Seiser Rossauerländle 23 A/2, A-1090 Wien office@phonomuseum.at

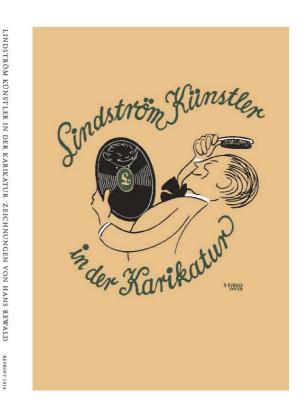
15th Diskografentag at Ethnologisches Museum Berlin, 25 - 27 April 2014

This year the GHT Diskografentag was hosted by the Ethnological Museum of Berlin, in particular by the Berliner Phonogrammarchiv. The general motto of the meeting was "Neue Beiträge zur Geschichte der Schallplattenindustrie - Contributions to the history of the record industry".

In the morning of the first day, the about 45 participants were greeted by the GHT president Christiane Hofer and the Director of the Music Department of the Ethnological Museum of Berlin Prof. Dr. Lars Christian Koch. Then Christiane Hofer opened the GHT General Assembly. The main topics of the assembly were the president's report of the GHT activities from last year, the presentation of the financial report of the treasurer Erich Heiss and its confirmation by the assembly. Further points of discussion were the forthcoming election of a new board next year and the necessity of an improvement of the visibility of the GHT as an international association. In April 2014, the GHT had 96 members from 19 countries.

It followed the presentation of the newest GHT publication "Lindström Künstler in der Karikatur" (Cartoons of Lindström Artists). The excellent designed and printed book is a reprint of a book published in 1929 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Carl Lindström AG. The original content of the book was augmented by short biographies of each artist and a CD with their original Lindström recordings. The project team who made the production of the book and the CD possible included Mathias Böhm, Claus-Peter Gallenmiller, Herbert Gruy, Christiane Hofer, Rainer Lotz, Willi Schlager, Wolfgang Schneidereit, Axel Weggen und Frank Wonneberg. The book including CD can be ordered at GHT for 50 EUR.





Cover of the GHT publication "Lindström Künstler in der Karikatur" (Cartoons of Lindström Artists) ISBN 978-3-9502906-0-8

The presentations of the conference started with a short summary of the BEKA workshop which was held by GHT and Berliner Phonogrammarchiv the days before the Diskografentag. A report of the workshop is given further below.

Presentations at the Diskografentag

Sunny Mathews (IND) The Gramophone museum in Plassanal, India, and South Indian Beka records

Stephan Puille (D) The first published ethnographic sound records – James Mooney's American

Indian Ghost Dance songs of 1894 and 1896

Ernst Weber (A) Die Verbreitung der Wiener Volkssänger-Couplets im Druck und auf

Schallplatte

Christoph Purschke (D),

Nadja Wallaszkovits (A) Das Lautdenkmal reichsdeutscher Mundarten – Ein Werkstattbericht

Wolfgang Bender (D) Die verdrängte Dimension - Afrikanische Musik als Teil der Afrika-

Wissenschaften

Bill Dean-Myatt (UK) The Gramophone Boom in Britain before 1914

Morten Hein (DK) Knud Hegermann-Lindencrone - The Danish Mapleson

Enrico Pigorsch (D) Von INTON bis Amiga - August Kybarth (1878 – 1945) und die

Schallplattenproduktion in Ehrenfriedersdorf im Erzgebirge

Claus Peter Gallenmiller Eine akustische Schallplattenschneidemaschine aus Ehrenfriedersdorf –

Pläne zur Restaurierung und Wiederinbetriebnahme

Oliver Wurl (D) Ultraphon spiegelt den Ton - Die kurze Karriere der Deutschen Ultraphon AG

Wolf Dieter Jordan (D) Die schlampige Seite der Lindström AG

Susana Belchior (P) The process of quality control during the first decade of record production by

The Gramophone Company (ca. 1899-1911)

Gabriel Gössel (CZ) Pornophony on shellac records in Bohemia 1904-1944

Ricarda Kopal (D) Das Berliner Phonogrammarchiv

Wolfgang Stanicek (A) 3 Minuten - Von der technologischen Vorgabe der Schallaufzeichnung zum

Formparadigma

Jürgen Grondziel (D) Archiv der Stimmen

Ferenc János Szabó (H) Fin-de-siècle sopranos in Budapest: Ilona Szoyer, Teréz Krammer, Elza

Szamosi and their succeeders on record

Carsten Schmidt (D) Richard Strauss und seine Schallplatten



Sunny Mathew from India gave a cheerful and lively presentation about the record collector's community in India and about his project of a Gramophone museum. The museum will be opened in January 2015 (see announcement further below).



The participants of the Diskografentag visited the Berliner Phonogrammarchiv. Second from left is Ulrich Illing.

A high-light of the Diskografentag was the trip to the movie production site Studio Babelsberg AG in Potsdam Babelsberg and especially the visit of the sound movie museum "Tonfilmmuseum Studio Babelsberg". This tiny but marvellous museum was initiated and founded by the GHT member Ulrich Illing. He guided the visitors through his rich and outstanding collection of machines and artifacts which are all related to the invention and production of sound movies, like film cameras, microphones, film cutting machines and ... records. So, not only a few of the visitors learned that movies with sound existed almost from the beginning of the movie production. In these early years the sound came from cylinders or records that were played on phonographs or gramophones. Ulrich Illing gave with his brilliant and entertaining presentation an interesting insight in the history of sound in the movies. All participants were really enjoying it. One can only recommend the visit to Babelsberg and the Tonfimmuseum.



A part of the collection in the Tonfilmmuseum

The next Diskografentag will be held in Lisbon (Portugal) at the New University of Lisbon from 17 to 19 April 2015. More information about this event will be given in the next months.



Most of the participants of the 15th Diskografentag in Berlin







"Unsere Reise um die Erde" – Early commercial recordings as a source for ethnomusicological research

GHT – Berliner Phonogrammarchiv- Workshop 22 - 24 April 2014 in Berlin

Summary: Beginning in 1898, European record companies issued a large number of recordings of Asian and North African traditional music. These recordings were marketed to audiences in these areas and featured well known artists of the period. One of the largest collections of such recordings is at the Berliner Phonogrammarchiv in Berlin. The purpose of the workshop was to gather a number of experts in the traditional music of various regions to evaluate the recordings in Phonogrammarchiv, to supplement the documentation available on the recordings, and suggest possibilities for future research.

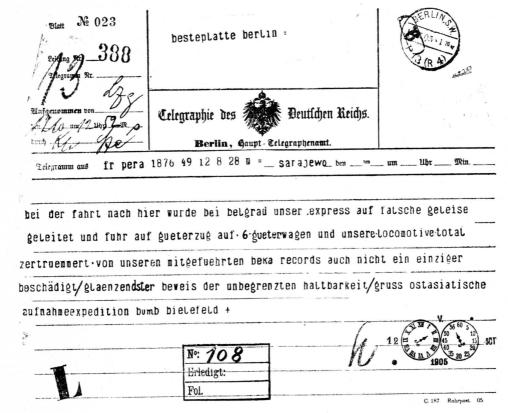
"A recording expedition around the world"

On October 5th 1905, Heinrich Bumb, the director of the Beka record company in Berlin, embarked on an eight-month recording expedition which began in Constantinople and ended in Yokohama. In the course of the trip, Bumb made over 1600 recordings which were pressed in Berlin and exported to agents in Turkey, Egypt, India, Burma, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, China and Japan. Bumb also wrote a report of his trip which was published in Phonographische Zeitschrift in 1906 under the title "Unsere Reise um die Erde". A partial discography has been published on the GHT website. The Berlin Phonogrammarchiv was the only archive in the world which was foresighted enough to obtain samples of these recordings (the Hornbostel collection). Surviving recordings have been digitized and catalogued in the Dismarc database.



Foto of an earlier BEKA expedition in Egypt (Phonographische Zeitschrift 6(10) (1905) 221, 8.3.1905)

The Beka expedition of 1905-06 was just one of the expeditions made by British, German and French record companies during this period. After World War One, the expeditions continued to new areas, including Sub-Saharan Africa. No complete listing of these recordings is available. Only a small number of these recordings is available today in public archives, although more copies exist in private collections. The early record companies had no plans to document musical traditions; they wanted to make recordings which would sell. However, they were quite aware of the tastes of audiences in their target countries. They recorded comic songs and European-style military bands, but also the best-known performers of traditional music, such as stars of the Beijing opera, court singers of the Emir of Bukhara, etc. But because of the difficult access to these recordings, no broad evaluation of their value has been made, and surviving recordings are often inadequately documented because of the large variety of languages and scripts involved.



Eisenbahn-Unfall der Beka-Expedition.

Es wird unseren Lesern interessiren von einem am 12. d. M. bei der Beka-Gesellschaft eingetroffenen Telegramm Kenntnis zu nehmen, welches wir obenstehend im Facsimile bringen. Wir gratulieren den beiden Herren Bumb und Bielefeld welche unverletzt aus dem Unfall hervorgegangen sind, herzlichst.

sind, man muß hierbei in berechnende Erwägung ziehen, daß mit Hilfe der Zeitungsreklame, besonders der Insertionsreklame in der Fachpresse bei großer Kostenersparnis eine weit um sich greifende Propaganda für die Verbreitung dieses oder jenes Fabrikates gemacht werden kann, wie sie auf dem Wege der direkten Offerte, die oft erheblich mehr Mittel verschlingt, selten erreicht wird, es ist folglich die Insertionsreklame die wichtigste, weil sie dem Ge-

Telegram of the BEKA expediton reporting a train accident in which they were involved. One wonders how serious the accident really was because the text looks more like an advertisement when it says:" ... not one of our records was damaged – excellent proof of their unlimited durability ..." (Phonographische Zeitschrift 6(42) (1905) 925, 18.10.1905).

In the beginning of their record activities the BEKA Company advertised their business very extensively in the German trade journal *Phonographische Zeitschrift*. Additionally to the self-initiated coverage of their recording expeditions, BEKA placed in almost each issue large one page advertisements like the one given on the GHT Rundschrift's cover page.

GHT and Berliner Phonogrammarchiv organized an expert workshop on early commercial recordings of traditional music in Berlin in 2014. The workshop brought together scholars who have an experience in studying historical performances of traditional music in various areas (Turkey, Egypt, the Indian subcontinent, Dutch East Indies, China, Japan), discographers and historians of the recording industry. The focus of the workshop was on the 1905 – 06 Beka recordings and a broader range of recordings (before 1940). The topics to be covered in the workshop included the following:

- Case studies of specific artist or areas
- Documentation and identifying of archival recordings
- Discographies of historical recordings (sources)
- Locating surviving recordings in public archives and private collections
- Completing the numerical listing of recordings made during the expedition
- A possible CD or web publication of selected recordings (using audio restoration)

Presentations at the workshop

Pekka Gronow (Finland) A short history of Beka

Du Jun Min (China) Beka Chinese Recordings 1906-1945

Philip Yampolsky (USA) The record industry in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore 1903-1942

Lars-Christian Koch (Germany) Policies of publication with regard to re-patriation

Rainer Lotz (Germany) Beka labels and trade marks

Ricarda Kopal (Germany)

Beka recordings at the Berlin Phonogram Archive

Suresh Chandvankar (India) The role of Beka in India

Hugo Strötbaum (Netherlands) Beka recordings of Turkish and Arabic music

Andreas Steen (Denmark) Beka Records in China: "A Strange Artistic Experience"

Thankfully the workshop was supported by



Further Activities of GHT

Presentations in Ehrenfriedersdorf (Germany)

One result of the GHT excursion to Ehrenfriedersdorf (Germany) in 2013 (see last GHT Rundschrift No. 22) was an invitation for the participation of GHT in the festivities on the occasion of the 675th anniversary of Ehrenfriedersdorf. On the 11 September 2014, Enrico Pigorsch gave a presentation about the German recording pioneer August Kybarth (1878 - 1945) and his record company in Ehrenfriedersdorf. Claus Peter Gallenmiller made a demonstration of a live recording on a Decelith foil. The recording was done by a traditional female "Erzgebirgs" singing group. The presentation and the recording demonstration were a great success. Over hundred people came to the traditional restaurant "Saubergklause" in Ehrenfriedersdorf.



Die Platten aus Ehrenfriedersdorf

August Kybarth gehört zu den Pionieren der Schallplattenindustrie. 1930 begann er mit der Produktion in der Bergstadt. 84 Jahre danach nimmt die Erzgebirgsgruppe ihre erste Schallplatte auf.

Ehrenfriedersdorf, Das Flair der 1930er Jahre war in der Sauberg-Klause allgegenwärtig - und mittendrin die Erzgebirgsgruppe. Im Rahmen des Vortrags zur Schallplattenproduktion in der Stadt, hatten die vier Frauen und Musiker die Chance, eine Schallplatte aufzunehmen, ganz im Stil der 1930er-Jahre. Ein paar Mal wurde geprobt, dann wurde es mucksmäuschenstill in dem Raum. Drei Minuten - so viel passt auf eine Seite einer originalen Schallplatte aus der



Enrico Pigorsch mit einer Schallplatte aus Foto: Jens Uhlig

Vorkriegszeit - sang die Erzgebirgsgruppe Anton Günthers "Bild dir nischt ei!". Das Ergebnis: Der Sound der Vergangenheit im Hier und Jetzt aufgenommen. "Meine erste Schallplatte", sagte Carmen Krüger. Eine ganz besondere musikalische Erinnerung an die 675-Jahr-Feier der Stadt

Das Thema "Schallplattenproduktion der Firma August Kybarth" hatte zuvor Hunderte auf der Sauberg gelockt. Zu Gast war Enrico Pigorsch. Der Dresdner widmete seinen Vortrag den Schallplattenpionieren August Kybarth (1878-1945) und Albert Vogt (1884-1954). Beide Iernten sich Schallplattenipromeren August Kybartin (1878-1945) und aubert vogt (1884-1954). Beitol einflicht Berlin kennen. 1910 gingen sie gemeinsam nach Russland, um dort im Auftrag eines Investors eine Schallplattenfabrik aufzubauen. 1911 zerstritten sich Vogt und Kybarth allerdings. Vogt ging zurück nach Berlin. August Kybarth blieb. Mit dem Beginn des Ersten Weltkrieges wurde die Familie Kybarth interniert, durfte das Land nicht verlassen. Erst nach dem Krieg konnten Frau und Kinder nach Deutschland zurückkehren. August Kybarth blieb bis 1921 in Russland.

Nach der Beschäftigung in mehreren Schallplattenfirmen und der Versöhnung mit Albert Vogt verschlug es beide zunächst nach Thalheim, wo sie die Clausophon-Schallplattenfabrik aufbauten Durch die Übernahme der Thalheimer Firma gelangte Kybarth an genügend Geld, um seine eigene Firma zu gründen. 1929 erwarb er dafür ein Grundstück an der Annaberger Straße in Ehrenfriedersdorf. 1930 begann die Schallplattenproduktion der "Internationalen Tonschrift" - anfangs unter der Leitung von Sohn Artur. Doch die Geschäfte liefen schlecht. Nach nur wenigen Jahren wurde die Plattenproduktion wieder eingestellt. Kybarth setzte nun auf die Herstellung auf geräuscharmer Zahmrädern, Ab 1941 ging es aber wieder aufwarts. Albert Voyt ließ von da an in der Ehrenfriedersdorfer Firma seine Platten pressen. Und weitere Auftrageber kamen hinzu. Nach dem Tod von Albert Kybarth 1945 übernahm sein Sohn die Geschäfte. 1947 mietete sich schließlich für ded Zelt' in die Fabrik ein und presste neben Potsdam auch in Ehrenfriedersdorf Amiga-Schallplatten. "Die Firma August Kybarth und Söhne hatte mit der Schallplattenproduktion formal nichts mehr zu tun", so Enrico Pigorsch. Und 1958 sei dann endgültig Schluss mit der Schallplattenproduktion in Ehrenfriedersdorf gewesen.

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GHT Excursion to Prague

This year the destination of the GHT excursion was the Czech National Museum of Music in Prague. Gabriel Gössel proposed an interesting program including a conference with presentations about some aspects of the history of sound recordings in Czech countries and their study and perception today. Further presentations were given about sound restoration.

Gabriel Gössel took by surprise all participants by inviting special guests, the daughter and granddaughter of the Czech Jazz accordionist Kamil Behounek (1916 - 1983) who made very interesting jazz recordings for the Czech Ultraphon Company in 1930s. The daughter talked about the life and work of her father.

All participants enjoyed their stay in Prague. A more detailed report of the GHT excursion will be given in the next issue of the GHT Rundschrift.





BOMBAY

PLASSANAL, KERALA

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sunnykpurayidom@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Discs & Machines is a museum of Gramophones and an archive of Gramophone records at Plassanal, Kottayam District, Kerala. Construction of the new building and interior fabrication are in the final stages of completion. Arranging the records in the archive is a time consuming work which requires about six months for completion. Opening of the new building is scheduled for 26th January 2015. On the occasion of the opening of the Gramophone museum, SIRC and D&M will be hosting a seminar focusing on "the future of Gramophones & Records with private collectors" on 25th and 26th January, 2015. Your active participation in the event is invited. Please confirm your participation before 31st July 2014. Abstract of presentations should reach before 30th November. Maximum number of delegates will be 40 and number of presentations will be 12. SIRC and/or D&M may publish the presented papers in printed or electronic media.

With regards.

Dr. Suresh Chandvankar
Hon; Secretary
SIRC, Mumbai, India
Sunny Mathew
D&M Plassanal
Kerala State, India

Suggested topics for the seminar

- Future of the Past: Prospects of record collections and Gramophones, young collectors, no new record pressings etc.
- Gramophone record labels (Indian); histories, companies, repertoire etc.
- Gramophone records of significance: devotional music, classical music, historical importance, social importance.
- Preservation and archival of records
- Digitization of content from Wax Cylinders, gramophone records, wire and magnetic media.
- Important artists of the gramophone era



Gedruckte Publikationen - PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Pekka Gronow- Christiane Hofer (Hg./Eds.):
Beiträge zur Geschichte der Schallplattenindustrie –
Contributions to the history of the record industry

Volume 1 ISBN 978-3-9500502-9-5, 2. Auflage, Wien/Helsinki 2009 20.-€

Volume 2 ISBN 978-3-9500502-1-9, Wien/Helsinki 2010 20.-€

Volume 3 ISBN 978-3-9500502-2-6, Wien/Helsinki 2011 25.-€

Volume 4 ISBN 978-3-9500502-0-2, Wien/Helsinki 2012 25.-€

Volume 5 ISBN 978-3-9500502-3-3 Wien/Helsinki 2013 25.-€

LINDSTRÖM KÜNSTLER IN DER KARIKATUR ZEICHNUNGEN VON HANS REWALD 1929

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(Festschriften, Odeon Katalog Musikapparate, Odeon Nachträge 1929,1939; Lindström Künstler in der Karikatur, Max Straus-ein Lebensbild Januar 1929, Max Straus –Seine Kollegen und Mitarbeiter; Kultur und Schallplatte ab Juli 1929)

Carl Lindström AG - Literatur Vol.2 20.-€

in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Berliner Phonogramm-Archiv (Schallplattenkataloge aus der Sammlung)

Carl Lindström AG -Literatur Vol.3 20.-€

(Odeon Generalkatalog Brasilien, Odeon Katalog Brasilien 1926; Odeon Finland No.190, 196 (1943), Ungarn 1936, Malta 1931, Serbien 1927/1939, USA 1924, Odeon Okeh foreign records 1926)

Carl Lindström AG - Literatur Vol.4 20.-€

(Parlophon GB 1926, Parlophon GB 1930-31, Parlophon GB 1931-32, Parlophon 1934-35, Parlophon GB Numerical List 1935, Parlophon GB 1937-38, Parlophon GB 1940, Parlophon GB 1941, Parlophon Rhythm Style 1941, Parlophon GB 1944-45, Parlophon Rhythm Style 1948, Odeon Serbia 1925-26, Odeon Liederbuch, Victor German Records 1925, Musik für Jeden- Heft 4,5,6,7 -



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