

GHT Rundschrift

Nr. 26, February 2016

Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger und Sammlung Alfred Seiser

17th GHT Diskografentag **27 - 29 May 2016 in Barcelona**



Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger und Sammlung Alfred Seiser

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Einladung – Call for Papers

17th Diskografentag
27 - 29 May 2016

BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA

Carrer Hospital, 56

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Einreichungen bis / deadline : 1 April 2016

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17th Diskografentag – Preliminary Program

Friday, 27 May

BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA. Carrer Hospital, 56. 08001 Barcelona. Tel. 93 270 23 00

09:00 Opening of the meeting: Christiane Hofer GHT

09:15 Welcome: **Sra. Eugènia Serra**, Director of the Biblioteca de Catalunya

10:00 **Guided visit to the exhibition Espai de Dansa i Música de la Generalitat de Catalunya.**

Coffee break

12:00 **Prof. Dr. Jaume Ayats**, Director, Museu de la Música de Barcelona.

**Guided visit to Museu de la Música. Lepant,
..... and Els encants (flee market; 5' walking distance from the Museu)**

Lunch break

BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA

14:00 **Opening of the conference desk**

14:30 Welcome: **Prof. Dr. Francesc Cortès** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

15:00

- Presentations

19:30

Saturday, 28 May

BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA

09:00

- Presentations

15:00

16:30 **Open Forum: (please announce your input at the conference desk)**

Christiane Hofer; Vienna: Presentation of the new GHT editions

Coffee Break

17:30 GHT Generalversammlung /**general assembly** of GHT

Sunday, 29 May

Arxiu Municipal de Girona

10:00

- Presentations

11:30

Lunch break

15:00 Antoni Escubedo collection guided visit and Farewell reception (already pre-booked).

GHT Excursion 2015

3 & 4 October 2015 in Vienna (Austria)

The destination of last year's GHT excursion was GHT's home town Vienna. The interesting program included the visit of three places

Wiener Phonomuseum, Mollardgasse 8, 1060 Wien

Collections Herbert Gruy, Bergsteiggasse 36-38, 1170 Wien

GHT Archive, Speisingerstraße 42, 1130 Wien

The following summary of the program and a few photographs will give some illustrative impressions of the events to those who could not participate at the excursion

Wiener Phonomuseum

Welcome by Kurt Krapfenbauer, Director of Wiener Phonomuseum and
Christiane Hofer, President of Gesellschaft für Historische Tonträger

Presentation by Ernst Weber, Wien „Die Wiener Natursänger und Dudler – Tondokumente von einst und jetzt“

Guided visit of collection of the Wiener Phonomuseum

Presentation by Suresh Chandvankar, Sonny Mathew, Kerala India/Mumbai India:
The Phono-Museum in Kerala and the long Indian way to collect the collectors.



During the visit of the Wiener Phonomuseum



A nice piece of the exhibition of the Wiener Phonomuseum



Ernst Weber at his presentation at the Wiener Phonomuseum

Collections Herbert Gruy



Herbert Gruy (second from left) presented his vast and valuable collections of records and documents

GHT Archive

Presentation by Filip Sir, Brno – The Virtual National Phonotheque in Brno and the Republications of Esta Catalogues 1930-1946 : *Český katalog nahrávek gramofonové firmy Esta 1930-1946*. 1. vyd. Brno: Moravská zemská knihovna, 2014, 368 s. ISBN 978-80-7051-203-6. (see more details on page 10)

Presentation by Ella Lengyel – Alfred Seiser, Collector and Donator

Presentation by Christiane Hofer – The GHT Archive as a collection of the collectors and an intersection to the public



Ella Lengyel, the widow of Alfred Seiser, talked about his life and his record collection

Other GHT Activities in 2015

To celebrate the UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on the 27 October several events took place with the participation of GHT members.

Ehrenfriedersdorf

GHT was already several times guest in the small German town Ehrenfriedersdorf in the Ore Mountains which is closely connected to the history of German recording industry. This time Jürgen Grzonziel from the Saxon State und University Library of Dresden (SLUB) gave a presentation about the SLUB's collection of gramophone records with recordings related to the region of the Ore Mountains. After that, Claus Peter Gallenmiller performed a live recording of a traditional music group from Ehrenfriedersdorf using old recording equipment.



Claus Peter Gallenmiller

Hanover

In the Schauspielhaus Theater in Hanover Stephan Puille gave a presentation about the long history of sound recording. The big gramophone was kindly lent by the Museum für Energiegeschichte(n) in Hanover which preserves the great heritage of Hanover's recording industry.



Stephan Puille (left) at the **audiovisual** presentation

In Memoriam



ALAN KELLY (1928 – 2015)

by John B. Milmo with kind permission of „The Record Collector“(abridged by editor)

A “doyen” is defined as a senior member of an establishment and, if discography is – or discographers are – an establishment, then Alan Kelly who died in December 2015 was certainly a doyen of discographers.

He had started to collect records in the 1940’s and soon developed an interest in opera recordings. As he put it in the Introduction to his Spanish catalogue: “since records were expensive, I also made lists of what was or had been available”. He was still at it more than 50 years later.

He supplied much of the information about red label double sided records issued in HMV’s DA and DB series to J R Bennett who published them under his own name but acknowledged Alan’s contribution in his Introductions. Since then, few lists of HMV recordings have been published without Alan’s keen involvement.

In 1988 he published the first of his numerical catalogues of recordings made between 1898 and 1929 by HMV and its predecessors. It covered Italian recordings and Alan dedicated it to his son, Malcolm. A French volume followed 2 years later and the 1325 page German volume in 1994. Subsequent Russian, Spanish, Czech (including Hungarian), Australian and English catalogues together with listings of matrix number (including unpublished recordings) were issued by himself on CD-ROMs. Together with his artists’ discographies, they constitute his discographical legacy.

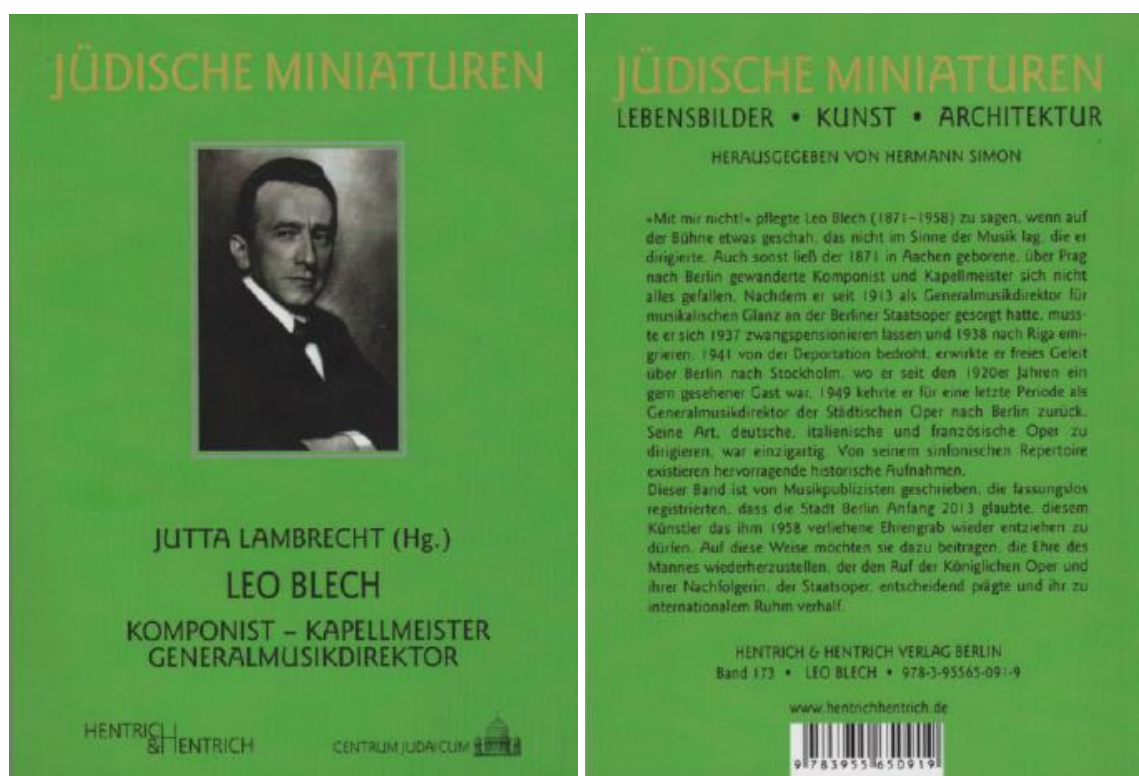
I can, perhaps, describe Alan’s achievement as a response to collectors who wanted to know who had recorded what, where and when. Alan became a regular visitor both at the British Institute of Recorded Sound and the EMI Archive at Hayes. Leaving his home at Sheffield he would drive down, spend the day going through the Registers and drive home again late in the evening. Regularly. Year after year.

In 2007 his work was recognised first by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections in the U.S.A. which conferred on him a Lifetime Achievement Award in a line going back to “Jim” Walsh including Frank Andrews and Bill Moran and, second, by the conferring of an honorary Doctorate of Music by Sheffield University, a first for an English discographer and, possibly, the first world-wide to be so honoured.

He had a great sense of fun and never took himself too seriously. A writer of Bossa Novas, he wrote to me, “was very respectful and hesitant approaching and taking the immensely valuable time of such an authority as I (I like that!)”. The writer had found an error in a Kelly listing which he was the first to accept. He seemed a little worried to be told by his correspondent that his name was frequently taken in vain by a group of web surfers with an interest in 78s. “It seems that the phrase, ‘Kelly says’ ... is tantamount to citing Aristotle in a medieval disputation – and I had no idea” he wrote. But the oration when he was given his honorary degree concluded by quoting a recent review, “All serious collectors will welcome Alan Kelly’s outstanding contribution to the professional documentation of a large segment of recorded history, and support this fine work”. I could not have put it better.

New Publications

New biography of the famous German conductor Leo Blech



Republication of Catalogues of the Czech ESTA Record Label – *Český katalog nahrávek gramofonové firmy Esta 1930-1946*. 1. vyd. Brno: Moravská zemská knihovna, 2014, 368 s. ISBN 978-80-7051-203-6.

The subject of this publication are the gramophone records produced for the Czech market put out by the first Czechoslovak record label, *Esta*, during its independent existence from 1930 to 1946.

Although some of the recordings on this label were released after this date, based on the decree of President Edvard Beneš on the nationalization of the Phonographic Industry in Czechoslovakia, after 1 January 1946 there was a major reorganization of the publishing policy of *Esta*, and it was subsequently also included in the newly-founded state-owned company *Gramofonové závody*. The individual stages of the development of *Esta*, including its pricing policy, editorial publication series, secondary labels, purpose-oriented recordings, overall dramaturgy and an indicative list of artists on the phonograph records of this label are detailed in the chapters preceding the discographic data.

When reconstructing each series of order numbers of published recordings, the authors worked primarily with gramophone records that had been physically found, the record cards preserved in the *Supraphon* archives, advertisements in period magazines and with a number of corporate promotional materials, brochures and sales catalogues of the gramophone records both of *Esta* and individual record retailers.

Most relevant is the data obtained from the labels of gramophone records that had been physically found, and a significant factor for identifying individual recordings was the registration number assigned to each recording at the time that it was written on the metal matrix. In addition to its placement on the label of the pressed gramophone record (here, however, we sometimes found errors in printing), it is also stamped on each gramophone record in the shellac mass in the free

space between the end of the recording groove and paper label (on the so-called mirror). In the commercially published gramophone records released by *Esta*, this was usually a four-digit number with a suffix of one of the capital letters from the beginning of the alphabet. These letters indicate the individual presses of gramophone records and are of minimal importance for discographic purposes.

However, this discography intentionally fails to specify recordings intended only for Slovakia, which came out in a series of order numbers. Publishing of a complete discography of Slovak recordings put out within the time period covered by this discography of not only record label *Esta*, but also other Slovak recordings which came out with labels *Ultraphon*, *Telefunken* and *Polydor* (and some of them subsequently re-pressed with label *Supraphon*) depends only on the interests of our Slovak colleagues.

Similarly, this discography does not include classified recordings intended for export to neighbouring countries – they are discussed in more detail in the chapter on the dramaturgy of *Esta*. Likewise, we do not deal in detail with recordings pressed by *Esta* without any participation of Czech artists from the matrices of German record labels *Kristall* and *Telefunken*, which were introduced to the market in a separate series of order numbers. Exceptions are recordings that *Esta* pressed from foreign matrices at the very beginning of its fragile existence in 1930.

It was quite difficult to actually identify all of the recordings: only about two thirds of the gramophone records specified in this discography were physically inspected. Written and visual materials from the funds of private collectors were used to identify and classify the remaining third. Nevertheless, some gramophone records could not be found, and for others it was necessary to rely on often inaccurate data published in various promotional materials of companies. Therefore, the authors welcome any clarifying or supplementing data. Although it is true that no discography is complete, it should nevertheless not contain data that is confusing or incorrect.

The listing and dating of the most important sources that the authors used are listed below:

Katalog gramodesek Kalliope Electro, říjen 1929

Oběžník fy Esta - ohebné nerozbitné a tvrdé šelakové gramodesek, prosinec 1930

Časopisy Gramotechnika, 1929 – 1933

Katalogy firmy Esta, leden – září 1931

Katalog nové gramofonové desky Lido, 1932

Hlavní seznam desek Esta, 1933

Katalog Esta s novým obsáhlým programem, 1934

Katalog gramodesek Brunswick, Esta, Polydor, listopad 1935, září 1936

Měsíční seznamy novinek Esta, Brunswick, Polydor, 1936 – 1939

Velký seznam vybraných desek Esta, Brunswick, Polydor, 1940

Náš gramofon/Unser Grammophon, 1941 – 1944

Katalogy gramodesek Esta 1940 - 1946

Celkový katalog Supraphon (Ultraphon-Esta), duben 1948

All images and photographs of labels reproduced in this publication come from private collector funds.

An alphabetical list of artists on the *Esta* phonograph records, placed before the actual discographic data, will help users of this publication get an idea of the scope of this relatively small record label (compared to other Czechoslovak companies such as Ultraphon). Although most of the recordings from its catalogue were a product of the tastes of the period, they all have some explanatory power, because – that is the way we were.