

12-31-2020

Memory of the Turkic World: Historical Records of Turkic-Speaking Prisoners-of-War of The Vienna Phonogram Archive

Fatima Nurlybayeva

Kazakh National University of Arts, Kazakhstan, neris060607@mail.ru

Follow this and additional works at: https://uzjournals.edu.uz/ea_music



Part of the [Music Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nurlybayeva, Fatima (2020) "Memory of the Turkic World: Historical Records of Turkic-Speaking Prisoners-of-War of The Vienna Phonogram Archive," *Eurasian music science journal*: 2020 : No. 2 , Article 13.

Available at: https://uzjournals.edu.uz/ea_music/vol2020/iss2/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by 2030 Uzbekistan Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eurasian music science journal by an authorized editor of 2030 Uzbekistan Research Online. For more information, please contact sh.erkinov@edu.uz.

Memory of the Turkic World: Historical Records of Turkic-Speaking Prisoners-of-War of The Vienna Phonogram Archive

Cover Page Footnote

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Director of the Vienna Phonogramm Archive Dr. Kerstin Klenke, Dr. Gerda Lechleitner and Dr.Christian Liebl for valuable advice and guidance during the research. Special thanks to the Secretary General of the International Organization of Turkic Culture TURKSOY Dusen Kasseinov for invaluable contribution and support.

Introduction

In the countries of the Turkic world, for more than a 100-year period of using sound recording devices, a huge number of various sound materials have accumulated on the traditional musical art of the Turkic peoples, recorded by scientists from different countries, in different regions and on different media. A significant part of the audio recordings of traditional music, collected and recorded in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia during stationary and field folklore expeditions from 1900 to 2020, is stored in the archives of various institutions - research institutes, libraries museums, radio committees and also in private collections. However, it should be noted that the earliest, first historical sound recordings of Turkic-speaking peoples, together with a sufficient amount of documentation, photographs, written documents, correspondence and personal documents of researchers, are stored in the Phonogram Archives of Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Moscow.

These first collections of Turkic traditional music recorded on wax cylinders at the beginning of the 20th century are the most important historical source for studying the cultural heritage of Turkic-speaking peoples and include samples of vocal and instrumental music from the early 1900s to the end of the 20th century. A significant part of the historical records of Turkic-speaking peoples, presented in different collections, are stored in the Vienna Phonogram archive.

Vienna Phonogram Archive

Vienna Phonogram archive is a scientific research institution that is a part of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and is considered to be the oldest sound archive in the world. It was founded on April 27, 1899, at the initiative of members of the Imperial Academy of Sciences Ludwig Boltzmann(1844-1906) and Sigmund Exner(1846-1926), professor of physiology at the University of Vienna, who later became the first director of the Phonogramm archive, as a special archive for collection, scientific study, storage and systematic recording of audio materials on the language, oral folk art and musical culture of the peoples of Europe and other regions of the world [1, 2]. From the very first years of the creation, their researchers

were regularly conducting field phonographic studies, traveling to various regions of Europe, Africa, Asia, America and Australia, to collect and record folklore of different peoples. So, for example, Rudolf Pöch explores Papua and New Guinea in 1901-1906, Adolf Dirr explored the Caucasus and Transcaucasia (1903-1909) [3, 4]; Richard Karutz, in 1905-1907, made research trips to Central Asia and Kazakhstan [5]; Felix von Luschan - Turkey, Syria 1902, Albert von Le Coq - Turkestan 1904 [6] and others.

In the first decades of the 20th century, researchers of the Vienna Phonograms of the Archive actively conducted field research, recorded and studied traditional musical folklore, published books and articles on the basis of their research, and delivered lectures on the traditional culture of the peoples of the world. Soon, the Vienna Phonogram Archive became the leading center in Europe for the collection, storage and scientific study of world cultural heritage. This sound archive is also one of the first to receive international recognition. Following the opening of the Vienna Phonogram archive, similar institutions were created in Berlin 1900 [7] and in St. Petersburg 1909 [8].

Today, after more than 100 years of its fruitful activity, the Vienna Phonogram Archive of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in accordance with its mission, is a research institute with serious authority in the scientific world, as well as an archive serving human interests, which makes a significant contribution to documentation, study and preservation of the world cultural heritage. Since 1990, the Vienna phonogram archive has an electronic database of all collections. And also a separate 4-volume catalog of all collections of the Phonogram archive was compiled [9]. Of particular note is the technical equipment of the Vienna Phonogram Archive: it has three digitization studios, recording and dubbing studios, a special laboratory for the maintenance of professional equipment, equipment for replication and for field research.

Historical collections

Currently, the historical collections of the Vienna phonogram archive contain more than 64,000 records, with a total playing time of more than 9,600 hours, all

historical audio materials collected in 1899-1950 and representing unique value for all humankind, are included in the UNESCO program "Memory of the World" [11]. For several years, the Vienna Phonogram archive successfully published historical records in the format of gramophone records, and later began to produce CD discs with separate historical collections, entitled "Sound Documents from the Phonogram Archive". Since 1999, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Phonogram archive, the full publication of "Historical Collections" (1899-1950) on CDs with comments began. To date, 17 series have already been released, representing about ¾ of the entire historical archive collection [12].

Archive name	Items	Hours (including commercial)	Original collections
Vienna Phonogram Archive	64 000	> 9 600	
Berlin Phonogram archive	> 150.000	18.000	> 1.000
Library of Congress Archive of People the culture		> 100.000	> 4.000
National Sound Archive (British Library), World and Traditional Music Section	300.000		370
Archive for Traditional Music, Indiana University	128.550	> 250.000	2.000

Table 1. Number of Leading records ethnomusicological archives

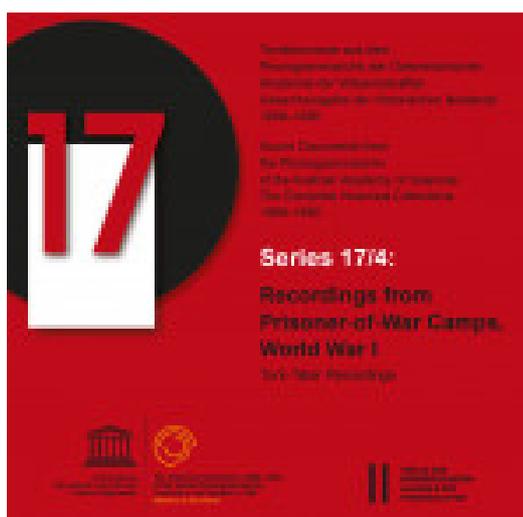
The Turkic-language collections of the Vienna phonogram archive are unique and are of great interest to specialists in languages, traditional culture and music of Turkic-speaking peoples. Along with the later recordings of the Turkic-speaking peoples made in the second half of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century, the Vienna Phonogram archive has a wide range of historical records from the early 1900s to 1950s. These historical collections are truly unique and priceless, as they are the first recorded audio materials, the rarest sound documents on the history of the musical culture of Turkic peoples. Moreover, it should be noted that it is difficult to find similar historical audio recordings (1900-1903) in modern sound archives of the Turkic countries, with such high sound quality, with original detailed protocols and written documentation.

The list of historical audio recordings of Turkic-speaking prisoners of war from the funds of the Vienna Phonogram Archive, made by researchers in different years, can be conditionally divided into several groups:

1. **The first group of historical sound** documents includes recordings made in prisoner-of-war camps of the First World War (1915-1918), which were published in 1999 "Complete Historical Collections of 1899-1950"[12] from the Vienna Phonogram archive, currently 17 series have been published. These historical collections are of great interest to science, but for us, representatives of the Turkic world, the recordings of Turkic-speaking prisoners-of-war from Russia made by a group led by a professor at the University of Vienna, anthropologist *Rudolf Pöch* (1870-1921) and the Austrian composer, musicologist *Robert Lach* (1878-1954) in the years 1915-1918 are of particular interest.

Between 1915 and the end of 1918, a group of researchers led by Rudolf Pöch using the military situation as an "unprecedented opportunity" to create extensive linguistic and musical recordings of "almost all the peoples of European and Asian Russia" [14], visited prisoner-of-war camps in *Eger* (Cheb), *Reichenberg* (Liberec) in Austria and *Theresienstadt* (Teresin) in the Bohemia (today's Czech Republic) [14], where linguistic and musicological studies were carried out. The Vienna Phonogram Archive provided Pöch with one of their phonographs and a set of wax

discs to study the camp. As a result of the research, a total of more than 200 recordings with voice, musical and instrumental recordings on wax cylinders were obtained [15]. The obtained historical audio recordings of prisoners-of-war - still stored in the Phonogramm archive - became part of a large-scale scientific project of the Anthropological Society, implemented with financial support from the Austrian Academy of Sciences [16]. In accordance with the plan of this scientific project, the researchers specifically identified three main ethnic categories of Russian prisoners of war of interest to them: 1. “Finno-Ugric” peoples - Komi, Udmurts, Mari, Chuvashes and Mordvinians; 2. Ethnic groups that speak Turkic languages, including the Bashkirs and the Volga and Crimean Tatars; 3. The peoples of the Caucasus region [14].



Pic.1. Recordings from Prisoner-of-War Camps, World War I Turk-Tatar Recordings.

Reihe: Tondokumente aus dem Phonogrammarchiv, Band: Series 17/4.

Reihe: Gesamtausgabe der Historischen Bestände 1899-1950, Band: 17/4.

Reihe: OEAW PHA CD, Band: 44.

Verlag: VÖAW Erscheinungsdatum: 13.04.2018 ISBN13: 978-3-7001-8229-0.

Format: 2 Audio-CDs, 1CD-ROM, Booklet mit 10 Seiten.

Among more than 215 different ethnic groups that have been registered in Austrian prisoner-of-war camps, the language and music of the Turkic-speaking peoples represent an important part of the research. Turkic-speaking prisoners also participated in these recordings, since these peoples were part of the Russian Empire.

Samples of song and instrumental folklore of the Turkic-speaking peoples were recorded on wax discs and accompanied by an appropriate protocol was applied to each of them. The phonographic records of the Turkic-speaking ethnic group, made by R. Pöch and R. Lach, include *Bashkirs, Kumyks, Crimean Tatars, Kazan Tatars, Nogais, Mishar Tatars, Chuvashes*.



Pic. 2. A group of Turkic-speaking prisoners of war.

In subsequent years, all records were carefully rewritten, described and published from 1917 to 1940, in Vienna and in Leipzig. The best specialists from the European Academies of Sciences were involved in deciphering these collections. For example, Mari records were processed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Eden Beek. In the same way, collections of records of prisoners-of-war of other nationalities and ethnic groups of the Russian Empire were described, deciphered, and published: *Abkhazians, Ossetians, Georgians, Mengrelians, Svans* (1931), *Bashkirs* (1939), *Tatars* (1939), *Chuvashes* (1940). According to the results of the recordings in prisoner camps, detailed descriptions of recording procedures from Rudolf Pöch [14] and musicological observations and hypotheses of Robert Lach [17,18] were preserved.

In the course of scientific research, in addition to sound materials that represent samples of traditional folklore of different ethnic groups, in the funds of another Vienna archive, we discovered *unique historical film documents* made by R. Pöch in prisoner-of-war camps in 1915-1918, previously considered lost and not introduced into a wide scientific circulation. Film materials represent a series of ethnographic documentaries by Rudolf Pöch [19].

2. The second group of historical records of Turkic-speaking peoples, stored in the Vienna Phonogram archive, presents records of prisoners of war of the Second World War, which were made in prison camps in Austria and the Czech Republic in 1943-1944.

A group of researchers at the Vienna Phonogram Archive led by *Elfriede Kapeszky-Hermann* and *Elfriede Ruth* visited prisoner-of-war camps in *Eger* (Cheb) *Reichenberg* (Liberec), and *Theresienstadt* (Terezin) in Austria and the Czech Republic between 1943 and 1944 and audio recordings of World War II prisoners of war were made on a gramophone. The historical audio materials of the Turkic-speaking ethnic group, made by *E. Kapeszky-Hermann* and *E. Ruth* from 1943 to 1944, contain song and instrumental samples of folklore of the following peoples: *Azerbaijanis, Bashkirs, Kazakhs, Karachais, Karakalpaks, Kumyks, Crimean Tatars, Kyrgyzs, Nogais, Tatars, Uyghurs, Uzbeks, Turks, Turkmens, Chuvashes*. In the post-war years, despite the damage to technical equipment and also to wax disks and matrices, all historical records after technical restoration were carefully rewritten, described and registered in the Vienna Phonogram archive catalog [20].

At the moment, due to the fact that the Vienna Phonogram archive has already prepared a pilot project for the publication of these records and the official publication “Historical recordings made in prisoner-of-war camps, World War II” is planned for 2020, we can only cite preliminary list of recordings of Turkic-speaking peoples made during the World War II in Austria and stored along with comments in the Vienna Phonogram archive. Therefore, more complete information on the above entries can be done only after the publication of the project.

Summary

The results of the analysis carried out in this paper leads to the following conclusions:

1. The first *Historical sound recordings of Turkic-speaking peoples* of significant historical, cultural and scientific value are stored separately in various foreign archives and have not received a full and multifaceted study. For the introduction of these historical materials into the international scientific community, diverse scientific research on Turkic-speaking collections and the publication of these audio collections with protocols and comments of specialists are required.

2. *Audio recordings of Turkic-speaking prisoners-of-war* from the collection of the Vienna Phonogram Archive, recorded on wax cylinders and magnetic tapes, are unique and invaluable historical sound documents on the history of the language, culture and music of Turkic-speaking peoples, which have no analogues in the sound archives of Turkic countries. These audio materials have become part of the UNESCO “Memory of the World” Programme and represent enormous potential as sources for contemporary research in linguistics, ethnography and ethnomusicology.

3. Lack of technical equipment and other factors in the phonogram archives of the Turkic countries created a situation of a real threat of preservation of historical and modern audio recordings of traditional music of Turkic-speaking peoples. Given the current situation, Turkic countries need to take urgent measures aimed at studying, protecting and preserving the sound cultural heritage, both stored in foreign Phonogram archives, and in the collections of Phonogram archives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

One of the first steps in this direction will be the TURKSOY international scientific project on creating the Phonogram archive of the traditional musical culture of the Turkic countries.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Director of the Vienna Phonogram Archive Dr. Kerstin Klenke, Dr. Gerda Lechleitner and Dr. Christian Liebl for helpful advice and unwavering guidance during the research. Special thanks to the Secretary General of the International Organization of Turkic Culture TURKSOY Dusen Kasseinov for invaluable contribution and support.

References

- [1] Exner, Sigmund. (1900). Bericht über die Arbeiten der von der kaiserl. Akademie der Wissenschaften eingesetzten Commission zur Gründung eines Phonogramm-Archives. In: Anzeiger der mathem.-naturwiss. Klasse der kais. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien 37, Beilage (= Mitteilungen der Phonogrammarchivs-Kommission; 1, Wien.
- [2] Lechleitner, Gerda. The Foundation of "A Kind of Phonographic Archive" (Exner 1900) for Future Research, Reflected in the CD-Edition of the Complete Historical Collections 1899-1950. In: Hui, Yu; D'Amico, Leonardo; Defrance, Yves (Hrsg.). *Ethnomusicology in Audio-visual Time*: Zhejiang University Press, 2018, pp. 140-152.
- [3] Kowar, Helmut. (2017). "Die Anlage einer Art phonographischen Archives" – mehr als ein Archiv. Ein Überblick über die Geschichte des Phonogrammarchivs der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, in: Geistes, sozial und kulturwissenschaftlicher Anzeiger, 152. Jg., Heft 1, 5-45. Wien.
- [4] Graf, Walter. (1964). Aus der Geschichte des Phonogrammarchivs der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. In: Bulletin phonographique 6, Wien. 9-39.
- [5] Templin, Brigitte. (2010). "O Mensch, erkenne Dich selbst" – Richard Karutz (1867–1945) und sein Beitrag zur Ethnologie. (Lübecker Beiträge zur Ethnologie, Band 1). 380 S., 33 SW-Abb. Lübeck: Schmidt-Römhild Verlag.

- [6] von Le Coq, Albert. (1928), Barwell, Anna, trans., ed., *Buried Treasures of Chinese Turkestan: An Account of the Activities and Adventures of the Second and Third German Turpan Expeditions*, London: George Allen & Unwin (Repr: 1985, OUP. ISBN 0-19-583878-5).
- [7] Suzanne Ziegler. (2006). “Die Wachsylinder des Berliner Phonogramm-Archivs“. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.
- [8] Korguzalov, V., Troitskaya, A. (1993). The Phonogram Archive of the Institute for Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg. *The World of Music*. 35 (1). pp. 115-120.
- [9] Schüller, Dietrich. (1984). Österreichische Volksmusik im Phonogrammarchiv der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. In: Walter Deutsch / Harald Dreö / Gerlinde Haid / Karl Horak (Hg.): *Volksmusik in Österreich*. Wien. pp. 106-111.
- [10] Schüller, D. (2005). The Safeguarding of the Audio Heritage: Ethics, Principles and Preservation Strategy (IASA Technical Committee – Standards, Recommended Practices and Strategies, IASA-TC 03). p.12.
- [11] Retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org>.
- [12] Research on the Historical Collections – the Phonogramm and gramophone recordings from the years 1899–1950. Christian Liebl, Gerda Lechleitner, Ulla Remmer (Eds.).
- [13] Recordings from Prisoner-of-War Camps, World War I ISBN 978-3-7001-8229-0 Print Edition, Tondokumente aus dem Phonogrammarchiv 17/4 OEAW PHA CD 44, 2018.
- [14] Dirr, Adolf. (1928). Einführung in das Studium der kaukasischen Sprachen. Mit einer Sprachenkarte. 80, XI, 381 S.
- [15] Pöch, Rudolf. Phonographische Aufnahmen in den k.u.k. Kriegsgefangenenlagern (= 41. Mitteilung der Phonogramm-Archivs-Kommission der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien). Wien 1916.
- [16] Lechleitner, Gerda. (2020). Rudolf Pöch's technisch-methodische Pionierleistung im Dienste der Ethnographie. In: Acham, Karl (Hrsg.), *Die*

Soziologie und ihre Nachbardisziplinen im Habsburgerreich. Ein Kompendium internationaler Forschungen zu den Kulturwissenschaften in Zentraleuropa; Wien/Köln/Weimar: Böhlau. pp. 728-730.

[17] Monique Scheer. *Captive Voices: Phonographic Recordings in the German and Austrian Prisoner-of-War Camps of World War I*, in Reinhard Johler, Christian Marchetti, Monique Scheer (eds.) *Doing Anthropology in Wartime and War Zones*. ISBN 978-3-8394-1422-4, 2010, pp. 279-311.

[18] Lach, Robert. (1930). *Gesänge russischer Kriegsgefangener*. Bd. 2: *Turktatarische Völker*. Abt. 1: *Krimtatarische Gesänge*. Wien u. Leipzig Hölder/Pichler/Tempsky.

[19] Lach, Robert. (1931). *Gesänge russischer Kriegsgefangener*, III. Band: *Kaukasusvölker*, 2. Abt.: *Mingrelische, abchasische, svanische und ossetische Gesänge* (= 65. Mitteilung der PhonogrammArchivs-Kommission Wien). Wien.

[20] Rudolf Pöch – *Als Antropologe in Kriegsgefangenenlagern*.

[21] Retrieved from <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/phonogrammarchiv>.