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**MEMORY OF THE TURKIC WORLD: A REVIEW OF HISTORICAL  
RECORDINGS OF THE TURKIC-SPEAKING PEOPLES  
OF THE VIENNA PHONOGRAMMARCHIVE**

***Abstract:** The countries of the Turkic world have a huge variety of sound materials on the traditional musical art of Turkic-speaking peoples, recorded by scientists from different countries, in different regions. The first historical sound recordings of the Turkic-speaking peoples of significant historical, cultural and scientific value are stored separately in various foreign archives and have not received a full and comprehensive study. This article gives a brief presentation of the unique historical audio materials of the music of Turkic-speaking peoples, which were collected by Austrian scholars at the beginning of the 20th century and are stored in the Vienna Phonograms Archive of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.*

***Keywords:** first historical audio recordings of Turkic peoples, wax cylinders, phonogram archive, study, protection and preservation of the musical heritage of Turkic-speaking peoples*

In this article we will briefly present an overview of various archival materials and information on the sound collections of music of Turkic-speaking peoples made by Austrian scientists and stored in the Vienna Phonogram Archive Foundations. The materials were prepared by the author during a scientific trip to the Vienna Phonogram Archive, October 2019, as part of a scientific project of the International Organization of Turkic culture TURKSOY.

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 documen-

tation, 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. The historical sound recordings of the Turkic-speaking peoples of significant historical, cultural and scientific value are stored separately in various foreign archives and still have not received a full and comprehensive study. 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 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 and Sigmund Exner, professor of physiology at the University of Vienna, who later became the first director of the Phonogrammarchiv, 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 regularly conducted 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, and in 1907-1909 he explores South Africa - Botswana and Namibia; Rudolf Trebitsch studied Southern Europe - France, Switzerland, Italy, the Balkans, Western Greenland (1906), Ireland and England (1907), Wales, Scotland (1909); 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].

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 serv-

ing human interests, which makes a significant contribution to documentation, study and preservation of the world cultural heritage. Its main tasks are to collect, record and catalog audio-visual research records in various disciplines from all regions of the world, preserve them in the long term and ensure their continued availability. During archiving, the Phonogram archive also pays special attention to critical notes on the sources of recorded materials, as this provides additional value, providing the possibility of multifaceted methods of analysis. Since 1990, the Vienna phonogram archive has an electronic database of all collections. Each record is accompanied by a “Protocol”, which includes information about the informant, about the collector, about the contents of the record (transcript), the technical characteristics of the equipment on which the original and a message were recorded about how the audio material was re-recorded to the new media format. And also, a separate 4-volume catalog of all collections of the Phonogramm 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 servicing professional equipment, equipment for replication and for field research. The scientific and technical staff of the Vienna Phonogram Archive takes an active part in the work of various international organizations, for example, IASA (International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives), AES (Audio Engineering Society), ARSC (Association of Recorded Sound Collections) [10]. The Vienna phonogram archive actively cooperates with the sound archives of Berlin, Zurich, Amsterdam, St. Petersburg, Zagreb and others, and assists in the preservation of their historical collections.

**Table 1: Number of Leading records ethnomusicological archives**

Ethnomusicological archives	Items	Hours (including commercial)	Original collections	Historical collections	Hours
Vienna Phonogramm Archive	> 150.000	>20.000	> 1.000	64.000	9.600
Berlin Phonogramm Archive	> 150.000	>18.000	> 1.000	16. 700	7.000
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		

### **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 mankind, 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 episodes have already been released, representing about 3/4 of the entire historical archive collection [12].

One hundred years after their creation, these sound documents were digitized in the Phonogram archive and edited in collaboration with international experts who provided scientific comments. In addition to audio CDs with amplified signal recordings, each sub-series of the publication includes a data CD with scans of the original recording protocols (i.e. written documentation), transcriptions for orientation, as well as comprehensive information about the origin of the recordings, researchers and history reference. In addition, comments analyze the significance of historical records from today.

The most significant of the already published are the following collections:

1. Rudolph Pöch: Papua New Guinea, 1904–1905, Namibia / Botswana, 1907–1909;
2. Rudolf Trebitsch: Celtic minorities, Basques and Inuit, 1906 - 1912;
3. Joseph Subak: Sephardic chants, 1908;
4. Adolf Dirr: Caucasian languages, 1909;
5. Abraham Zvi Idelson: Synagogue, Christian Liturgy and Palestinian Music, Jerusalem 1910-1913 [12].

**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. However, the rich sound and handwritten Turkic-language collections of the Vienna Phonogram archive are still not well known in the world scientific and cultural environment, since the catalogs are not fully published and researchers do not have free access to them. In addition, among the collections obtained in the Phonogram archive in recent years, there may also be

folklore and linguistic recordings of Turkic-speaking peoples, which have yet to be found, processed and cataloged with the help of experts in these languages. All of the above once again speaks of the need to introduce these invaluable materials into scientific circulation.

The list of historical audio recordings of Turkic-speaking peoples from the Vienna Phonogram Archive funds, that we compiled, includes sound recordings made by scientists in different years, in different regions and in different conditions. These unique historical audio materials of Turkic-speaking peoples can conditionally be divided into several groups:

**1. Historical records** made by ethnographers during expeditions and field work in regions difficult to access for European researchers - Central Asia and Kazakhstan, East Turkestan, the Caucasus and Transcaucasia, Turkey. From the beginning of the 1900s, specialists from the Vienna and Berlin Phonogram archive archives began to intensively conduct ethnographic studies in Central Asia, Kazakhstan, the Caucasus, the Caspian region - they recorded traditional musical folklore, published books and articles based on the results of their research, delivered lectures on language, culture and traditional music. First of all, this is due to the materials of such researchers as Richard Karutz, Adolf Dirr, Albert von Le Coq and others. The Vienna Phonogram Archive funds contain audio materials made by A. Dirr in 1909-1910 in the Caucasus.

**Adolf Dirr** (1867-1930) - German linguist, specialist in Caucasian languages, Honorary Doctor of the University of Munich (1908). Director of the Museum of Ethnology (Munich, 1913), While working in the Caucasus, Dirr paid attention to the collection of ethnographic materials (including artifacts), as well as taking photographs and phonographic records. Sound materials recorded by him on a phonograph in 1909 in Zagatala, Baku, Tbilisi, Dagestan are stored in the Vienna Phonogram archive. From 1910 to 1913 Adolf Dirr made more than 30 records of folk music of Laz, Megreles, Svans, Abkhazians and Ossetians, which are in the Museum of Ethnography in Berlin). Records from the collection of A. Dirr, stored in the Vienna Phonogram archive, include unique samples of sound speech and folklore from Baku Tatars, Talyshs, Azerbaijani Lezghins and Avars, and are of great interest to science, as the earliest recorded audio materials of the Turkic-speaking peoples of the Caucasus [13].

Due to the fact that at the moment a complete collection of historical records by Adolf Dirr, after a technical restoration and thorough scientific editing by the Vienna Phonogram Archive specialists, has already been prepared for publication, more complete information on these historical records can be made only after the publication of the project.

**2. The second 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, total 17 episodes have been published. These historical collections are of great interest to science, but for us, representatives of the Turkic world, the recordings of Turkish-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.

As noted earlier, from the very first years of the Vienna Phonogram archive, its researchers regularly conducted field phonographic studies, traveling to different regions of Europe, Africa, Asia, America and Australia, to collect and record folklore of different peoples. However, starting in 1914, as a result of the outbreak of the First World War, such field studies became very limited and almost impossible. But **Rudolf Pöch**, professor of anthropology and ethnography at the University of Vienna, realized that the military situation would be an “unprecedented opportunity for scientific research” and they used this opportunity to create extensive linguistic and musical recordings of “almost all the peoples of European and Asian Russia” [14]. The Vienna Phonogram Archive provided Pöch with one of their phonographs and a set of wax discs for research in prisoner-of-war camps.

Between 1915 and the end of 1918, a group of researchers led by Rudolf Pöch visited prisoner-of-war camps in Eger (Cheb), Reichenberg (Liberec) in Austria and Theresienstadt (Teresin) in the Bohemia (today’s Czech Republic) [14], where they conducted linguistic and musicological research. As a result of the studies, a total of more than 200 recordings were obtained with voice, music and instrumental recordings on wax cylinders [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, Chuvash 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].

Among the more than 200 different ethnic groups that were registered in the Austrian prisoner-of-war camps, the language and music of Turkic-speaking peoples represent an important part of the research. Samples of song and instrumental folklore of Turkic-speaking peoples were recorded on wax discs and the corresponding protocol was applied to each of them. In the phonographic recordings of the Turkic-speaking ethnic group made by R. Pöch and R. Lach there are presented the *Bashkirs*, *Kumyks*, *Crimean Tatars*, *Kazan Tatars*, *Nogais*, *Mishar Tatars*, *Chuvashes*.

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 (Oden Beke). 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*, *Mingrelians*, *Svans* (1931), *Bashkirs* (1939), *Tatars* (1939), *Chuvashes* (1940). According to the results of the recordings in

prison camps, detailed descriptions of recording procedures from Rudolf Pöch [14] and musicological observations and hypotheses of Robert Lach [17,18] were preserved.

*Recordings from Prisoner-of-War Camps, World War I  
Turk-Tatar Recordings*

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



In addition to the sound materials that represent samples of traditional folklore of different ethnic groups, unique historical film documents made by R. Pöch in the prisoner of war camps in 1915-1918, previously considered lost and not put into wide scientific circulation, are preserved. The cinema materials represent a series of ethnographic documentaries by Rudolf Pöch, under the general title "Rudolf Pöch - Als Anthropologe in Kriegsgefangenenlagern / Rudolf Pöch - as an Anthropologist in Prisoner Camps" [19].

**3. The third 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 prison camps 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 and E. Ruth from 1943 to 1944, contain song and instrumental samples of folklore of the following peoples: *Azerbaijanis, Bashkirs, Kazakhs, Karachays, Karakalpaks, Kumyks, Crimean Tatars, Kyrgyz, Nogais, Tatars, Uyghurs, Uzbeks, Turks, Turkmens, Chuvashes.*

In the post-war years, despite the damage to technical equipment and also to wax disks and dies, 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 2nd World War 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.

4.A separate group of records of Turkic-speaking peoples are made by researchers in the second half of the twentieth century and at the beginning of the twenty-first century. In the recordings made by the researchers in the years 1950-1980, it is necessary to especially note the recordings from the collection of Andreas Tietze (1914–2003). Tietze’s collections include Karachays (1958),Turks (1954-1990), Uyghurs(1980-1982), and recordings were made on magnetic tapes. Records made by Max Klimburg in Afghanistan include: Uzbeks (1958), Turkmens (1958), and Uyghurs in China (1988). Records made by Hermann Markus Pressl in Afghanistan - Uzbeks (1968-1970), Turkmens (1967). Records of Ingeborg Baldauf made in Afghanistan include - Turkmens (1977-1978, 2004), Uzbeks (1978).

Records by Turkish music researchers: Mozes H.Heinschink Collection (1969-2004), Josef Haekel and Engelbert Stiglmayr (1960), Helmut Kowar (1997) [20]. It should be noted that each record is accompanied by a “Protocol”, which includes information about the informant, about the collector, about the content of the record (transcript), technical characteristics of the equipment on which the original was recorded and a message about how the audio material was re-recorded to the new media format.

### **Summary**

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.

The Turkic-language collections of the Vienna phonogram archive 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 project “Memory of the World” and represent a huge potential as sources for modern research in linguistics, ethnography and ethnomusicology.



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.

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## **TÜRK DÜNYASININ YADDAŞI: VYANA FONOQRAM ARXİVİNDƏ SAXLANAN TÜRKDİLLİ XALQLARIN TARİXİ SƏS YAZILARININ ÜMUMİ XÜLASƏSİ**

***Xülasə:** Türk dünyası ölkələri türkdilli xalqların ənənəvi musiqisinə dair çoxsaylı musiqi materialına malikdir. Bu materiallar müxtəlif bölgələrdə və müxtəlif alimlər tərəfindən toplanmışdır. Türkdilli xalqların tarixi, mədəni və elmi dəyəərə malik əhəmiyyətli ilk səs yazı-*

ları pərakəndə şəkildə ayrı-ayrı xarici ölkələrin arxivlərində saxlansa da hələ də tam və əhatəli şəkildə araşdırılmamışdır. Bu məqalədə Avstriya Elmlər Akademiyasının Vyana Fonogram Arxivində qorunub saxlanan, Avstriya alimlərinin XX əsrin əvvəllərində türkdilli xalqların musiqisi üzrə topladığı unikal audiomaterialların müxtəsər təsnifatı təqdim edilir.

**Açar sözlər:** türk xalqlarının ilk audio yazısı, mum silindr, fonogram arxiv, türkdilli xalqların musiqisininin tədqiqi, qorunub saxlanması

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### ПАМЯТЬ ТЮРКСКОГО МИРА: ОБЗОР ИСТОРИЧЕСКИХ ЗАПИСЕЙ ТЮРКОЯЗЫЧНЫХ НАРОДОВ ВЕНСКОГО ФОНОГРАММАРХИВА

**Аннотация:** Страны Тюркского мира имеют огромное количество разнообразных звуковых материалов по традиционному музыкальному искусству тюркоязычных народов, записанных учеными разных стран, в разных регионах. Первые исторические звуковые записи тюркоязычных народов, представляющих значительную историческую, культурную и научную ценность, хранятся разрозненно в различных зарубежных архивах и не получили полного и разностороннего исследования. В этой статье дается краткое представление уникальных исторических аудиоматериалов музыки тюркоязычных народов, которые были собраны австрийскими учеными в начале XX века и хранятся в Венском Фонограмм Архиве Австрийской Академии наук.

**Ключевые слова:** первые исторические аудиозаписи тюркских народов, восковые цилиндры, фонограммархивы, изучение, защита и сохранение музыкального наследия тюркоязычных народов

**Rəyçilər:** sənətşünaslıq üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru, professor Lalə Hüseynova  
sənətşünaslıq üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru, professor Saida Yelemanova