



MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER – NOMINATION FORM

Russia - The Historical Collections (1889-1955)
St. Petersburg Phonogram Archive
Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinsky Dom)
Russian Academy of Sciences.

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The Historical Collections 1889 – 1955 of the Phonogram Archive of the Institute of Russian Literature, a corpus of over 35,000 historical recordings in the field of ethnomusicology, ethnolinguistics, and philology, amount to over 500 hours of recorded sound material. Specifically noteworthy is the high proportion of items related to the earliest period of recording with a phonograph in the field, i.e. before 1910. These collections represent to a high degree of completeness the recorded legacy of orally transmitted cultures of the former Tsarist Russian Empire and the later Soviet Union.

Many of these recordings are the oldest of their kind, and some are unique. As a whole, they represent orally transmitted cultures, languages, and rites, which have since undergone substantial changes, and sometimes even have been lost. Along with similar collections elsewhere, these holdings reflect a considerable portion of the globality of the orally transmitted cultural heritage. Several collections have been the basis for well-known publications and thus have gained international reputation.

1. Identity and Location

1.1 Name of documentary heritage

The Historical Collections (1899 - 1955) of the Phonogram Archive of the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinsky Dom), Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg ("St.Petersburg Phonogram Archive")

1.2 Country

Russia

1.3 State, province or region

Russia and bordering foreign countries

1.4 Address

199034 Russia
St.-Petersburg
Admiral Makarov emb., 4

2. Legal Information

2.1 Owner (name and contact details)

The Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinsky Dom), Russian Academy of Sciences.

2.2 Custodian (name and contact details)

Associate Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr.Skatov Nikolaj Nikolaevich, Director of the Institute of Russian Literature.

2.3 Legal status (if different from 2.1)

- (a) category of ownership (e.g. public, corporate or private)
State

- (b) details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage
The task of the Phonogram Archive is defined as preserving its collection for "the future". At the same time the Phonogram Archive's collections are a sound encyclopaedia of Russian ethnology.

- (c) accessibility
The Phonogram Archive is open to all researchers. Accessibility is dependent on the legal situation of each collection. The access to the historical recordings is obstructed by technical reasons, as transfer to modern carriers is complicated and time-consuming.

- (d) copyright status

Copyright restrictions are applicable to about 25% of the historical recordings of the Phonogram Archive.

2.4 Responsible administration

details should be given of the mechanism or organization already established, or to be established, to ensure the proper management of the documentary heritage

Being a sound archive, the Phonogram Archive of the Institute of Russian Literature has established specific administrative procedures for the preservation of and access to the heritage in custody.

3. Identification

3.1 Description and inventory

The Phonogram Archive of the Institute of Russian Literature is the largest sound archive of anthropological field recordings in Russia. Its purpose is to preserve acoustical materials of indigenous ethnology, to systematically record orally transmitted cultural manifestations, to disseminate these materials through publications (also acoustical), and to provide support for folklore and ethnographic research. At present the Phonogram Archive's collection exceeds 150,000 recorded items.

The Historical Collections came about through:

- a) researchers who had received technical and methodological support by the Phonogram Archive;
 - b) organizations and collectors who have deposited their materials in the Phonogram Archive;
 - c) staff members of the Folklore Department of the Institute of Russian Literature.
- Physically, the Historical Collections consist of about 10,000 wax cylinders, over 400 wax disks, over 50 lacquer disks. Amongst the Historical Collections the most significant ethnomusicological, ethnolinguistical and philological collections are the following:

E. Lineva (1900-1911: Russia - Kostroma, Vladimir, Vologda, Arkhangelsk districts; 1910: Doukhobors and Molokans, living in Georgia; 1903: Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia; 1903: Ukraine); S. Rybakov (1899: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan); W.Jochelson (1902: Yakutia; 1911: Kamchatka; 1909-1911: Aleutian Islands); S.Malov (1909-1911: China); L.Shternberg (1910: Siberia); E.Volter (1908-1910: Lithuania, Serbia, Bulgaria); A.Anokhin (1910-1911: Altay), S.Shirokogorov (1912-1913: Siberia; 1915-1917: China); S.Majnagashev (1913-1914: Siberia); A.Markov (1903: Karelia; 1909: Russia – Arkhangelsk district); O.Ozarovskaya (1914-1921: Russia -Arkhangelsk district); S.Bernshtein (1921, 1926: Karelia); Kh.Kushnarjov (1928-1929: Armenia); E.Gippius, Z.Evald (1921-1941: Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia); B.Galayev (1928, 1930, 1935: Osetia); N.Karger (1929: Siberia); L.Kershner (1929-1930: Buryatia); S.Magid (1928-38: Jews, living in Byelorussia, Ukraine; 1937: Karelia); B.Petri (1913: Siberia); V.Zhirmunsky (1927-1929: Germans, living in Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Georgia); A.Shakhmatov (1908: Byelorussia); N.Derzhavin (1910-1911: Ukraine, Georgia); V.Anuchin (1908: Siberia); E.Emsgeimer (1936: Osetia); B.Vladimirzov (1908-1909: Mongolia, Kalmykia; 1913: Tadjikistan); Sh.Aslanishvili (1928: Georgia); V.Tomilin (1930: Chuvashia; 1937: Ukraine); N.Kovjazin (1930: Siberia); F.Rubzov (1937: Russia – Smolensk district, Byelorussia; 1941: Russia – Pskov district); N.Kotikova (1946: Russia – Pskov district, Estonia); M.Beregovsky (1939-1940: Jews living in Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine).

3.2 Bibliographic/Registration details

The Historical Collections are registered by the number of the sound carrier, by the number marked on the sound carrier (for example, 0680.01) prefixed either by ФВ for wax cylinders or ДЛ – for the gramophone format disks. Each recording is accompanied by a written "protocol", which gives details of recorded persons and time of the recording. In the course of the re-recording this data is documented in an electronic data base.

3.3 Visual documentation, if appropriate (for example, photographs or a video of the documentary heritage)

Written evidence is sometimes accompanied by photographs.

3.4 History

The first steps to found the Phonogram Archive in the Academy of Sciences were taken in 1911. The Phonographic Archive of the First department of the Library of the Academy of Sciences and the field recordings on wax cylinders made by academicians A.Shakhmatov, N.Derzhavin, supplemented by recordings of E.Volter – the first curator of the phonographic archive – constituted the first holdings. However, the real basis of the Phonogram Archive was formed only in 1926 due to the endeavours of E.Gippius (responsible curator 1926 – 1944) and Z.Evald. In 1931, the Phonogram Archive officially became part of the Academy of Sciences. In 1932, the materials of the largest Leningrad and Moscow sound archives (including the collections of the former sound archive of the Library of the Academy of Sciences) became part of the Phonogram Archive's holdings. In

1938 the Phonogram Archive was transferred to the Institute of Russian Literature, where it belongs now. After a decline in the war period and first decades thereafter, the "second formation" in the history of the Phonogram Archive had started under the responsibility of V.Korguzalov, curator from 1967 to 1986. By order of the vice-president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR P.Fedoseyev (№ 23-1573, October 14, 1971), the Phonogram Archive was evaluated by the Committee of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences and, according to its recommendations, was re-established as a central collection of folklore sound records within the Academy, aiming at "eternal preservation" of its holdings. For a long time the only possible contacts for the Phonogram Archive were within the scientific institutions and archives on the territory of the USSR. International co-operation has been developed over the last years. Supported by the INTAS Programme of the European Commission, steps towards improving the preservation of the holdings and towards the transfer of them onto new carriers have been undertaken.

3.5 Bibliography: Please indicate up to three published sources describing the proposed documentary heritage.

Korguzalov V.V., Troitskaya A.D. The Phonogram Archive of the Institute for Russian Literature (Pushkin House) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg// The world of music: Journal of the International Institute for Traditional Music (IITM). Vol. 35(1)-1993. P. 115-120.

Schiff V.P., Marchenko Y.I. The folklore of the peoples of Siberia and the Far East in the sound archives collection of the Institute for Russian Literature (Pushkinsky Dom) - creation of the fund, its current state and conditions for restoration// Archives of the Languages of Russia. Saint-Petersburg - Groningen, 1996. P. 86-90.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Dr. Kirill V.Tchistov, Associate Member of Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology of Russian Academy of Sciences, St.-Petersburg, Russia.

Dr. Susanne Ziegler, Curator Historical Collections, Berlin Phonogrammarchiv.

Dr. Tjeerd de Graaf, Department of Linguistics, University of Groningen, Netherlands.

Dr. Dietrich Schüller, Director, Vienna Phonogrammarchiv, Austria.

4. Management plan – see below Annex 1

Storage, preservation and re-recording:

The collections are stored on the premises of the Institute of Russian Literature under conditions giving cause for concern. Specifically the climatic parameters (temperature and humidity) of the rooms do not fully correspond to standard recommendations. Additionally, lack of space does not permit ideal storage position of the various media in the stacks.

Within the framework of the INTAS Programme of the European Commission, suitable modern replay equipment for historical recordings was made available and the start of systematic re-recording was made possible.

With regards to further preservation, the transfer of all historical materials of the Phonogram Archive to contemporary carriers and the creation of standard conditions for physical maintenance of the collections is imperative. Within their capabilities, the members of the Archive will continue to perform these tasks.

Access:

Most of the materials of the Historical Collections are already available for access due to earlier transfers to analogue magnetic tape. Additionally, few items have been made available through publications. Further publication of the materials of the Historical Collections is considered. The release of information about the collections of the Phonogram Archive on the internet is in preparation.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria

5.1 Assessment of the documentary heritage against each criterion described in Annex 2.

Criterion 1 "Influence".

Generally, recorded sound collections are the most important basis for the knowledge of oral traditions. Specifically the collections of E.Lineva, E.Gippius, Z.Evald, S.Rybakov, A.Shakhmatov, W.Jochelson, L.Shternberg, N.Derzhavin formed specialist knowledge of the respective orally transmitted cultures. Especially for Siberia and the Far East these collections have substantially contributed to the world's knowledge of their traditional cultures.

Criterion 2 "Time".

Most of the recordings made until 1930 are the earliest of their kind, thus enabling a deeper look into the history of the respective traditional cultures, languages and musical styles.

Criterion 3 "Place".

The materials of the Historical Collections, which have been gathered in many regions of Eurasia, reflect the cultural and linguistic interaction of various population groups in the course of a long historical period.

Criterion 4 "People".

The Historical Collections reflect the work of outstanding scholars who helped to create the bases of Russian ethnology, particularly ethnomusicology. Therefore their significance exceeds narrow national cultural and scholarly scope. On the other hand, many of these early materials represent unique documents of the traditional societies which subsequently have been subjected to significant cultural and societal changes.

Criterion 5 "Subject/theme".

This criterion is applicable to the most extensive collections (those of E.Lineva, V.Zhirmunsky, E.Gippius, and others) and also to various collections based on regional or generic characteristics, which are unparalleled in terms of subject and size.

Criterion 6 "Form and style".

In the 20th century the traditional rituals and forms of folklore singing experienced fundamental changes. The early materials of the Historical Collections represent oral manifestations in traditional and complete stylistic varieties, while contemporary recordings demonstrate analogous phenomena in acculturated and simplified forms only.

Criterion 7 "Social value".

The Historical Collections involve many nationalities. Therefore their significance goes beyond the confines of a single culture. Additionally, these collections contain recordings made of small and gradually disappearing ethno-confessional groups such as the following: Old Believers, Molokans, Doukhobors, Hassids, and German Colonists in Russia. The extensive folklore collections of peoples in Siberia and the Far East are of special importance. In connection with the decline of their cultures, the materials of the Historical Collections also serve as sources for the reconstruction and potential revival of these peoples' cultures.

The supplementary criteria "Completeness" and "Rarity" are also applicable to most of the Historical Collections of the Phonogram Archive.

In summarizing, the Historical Collections of the St.Petersburg Phonogram Archive represent in a comprehensive way the legacy of early recordings of oral traditions of the manifold European and Asian peoples and ethnic communities of the Russian Empire and the later Soviet Union. To an important degree, these collections reflect, beyond their national and regional contexts, manifold varieties of traditional cultures which, in the course of the 20th century, have been subjected to substantial changes by the impact of political development and modern civilization.

6. Consultation

6.1 Details of consultation about the nomination with the:

This nomination has been prepared by the Phonogram Archive in consultation with the Viennese Phonogram Archive.

7. Nominator

The Director of the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinsky Dom).