



MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER – NOMINATION FORM

Austria - The Vienna City Library Schubert Collection

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Starting out from a bequest of the contractor and art sponsor Nicolaus Dumba, the Vienna City Library's Schubert collection has been systematically enlarged and is today the world's largest collection of Schubertiana. At its core are the world's most substantial body of autograph music manuscripts by Schubert and a nearly complete collection of first editions of his works.

The Vienna City Library's Schubert collection is being consulted by musicologists from all over the world. It provides particularly indispensable source material for the New Edition of Schubert's Complete Works and other text-critical editions.

In addition to the musicological interest, items from the Vienna City Library's Schubert collection have been regularly demanded as show pieces for exhibitions. Examples to be noted are the City of Vienna's major Schubert exhibitions of 1978 and 1997 in the Historical Museum, which centered on the composer's artistic legacy and whose exhibits were drawn mainly from the Vienna City Library's Schubert collection.

1. Identity and Location

1.1 Name of documentary heritage

The Vienna City Library's Schubert Collection

1.2 Country

Austria

1.3 State, province or region

Vienna

1.4 Address

Rathaus - MA 9

A-1082 Vienna

Austria

1.5 Name of organization or institution (if appropriate)

Wiener Stadt- und Landesbibliothek (Vienna City Library)

2. Legal Information

2.1 Owner (name and contact details)

City of Vienna

2.2 Custodian (name and contact details)

Wiener Stadt- und Landesbibliothek

2.3 Legal status (if different from 2.1)

- (a) category of ownership (e.g. public, corporate or private)
public
- (b) details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage
provisions customary for the preservation of historic documents
- (c) accessibility
For reasons of preservation, access to the main body of the Schubert Collection has been restricted to scholarly research and selected exhibitions.
- (d) copyright status

No copyright applies to the original works of Schubert; arrangements of Schubert's compositions and literature on Schubert are protected until seventy years after the author's death.

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

The Vienna City Library is the scientific and administrative library of the City of Vienna. Its usage is regulated in detail by the library statute of 17 November 1975.

3. Identification

3.1 Description and inventory

The Vienna City Library's Schubert Collection comprises of about 340 autograph music manuscripts, first editions of nearly all of Schubert's works, numerous later editions and manuscript copies by other hands, several autograph letters and other writings and various further documents referring to Schubert (in particular writings by members of his circle of friends), accompanied by a large collection of international literature on Schubert.

3.2 Bibliographic/Registration details

The Schubert Collection is split between the Music Collection, the Manuscript Collection and the Printed Books Collection of the Vienna City Library. Every single item is identified by its inventory number which, in the cases of manuscripts and books, is similar to its call number; for reasons of convenience, all editions of a given composition or group of compositions by Schubert have been assigned one and the same call number.

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

Several items of the Schubert Collection have been photocopied, microfilmed or published in facsimile editions, as well as photographs of numerous items which appear throughout the literature on Schubert.

3.4 History

Coming into effect in 1900, Nicolaus Dumba, contractor and art sponsor, bequeathed the greater part of his highly notable collection of Schubert autographs to the City of Vienna. This led subsequently to the foundation of the Music Collection of the Vienna City Library with Dumba's Schubert collection as its centerpiece which has been enlarged systematically and is today the world's largest collection of Schubertiana.

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

Fritz Racek: Von den Schubert-Manuskripten in der Stadtbibliothek. In: Festschrift zum 100jährigen Bestehen der Wiener Stadtbibliothek. Wiener Schriften, vol. 4, Vienna 1956, p. 98-124.

Ernst Hilmar: Verzeichnis der Schubert-Handschriften in der Musiksammlung der Wiener Stadt- und Landesbibliothek. Catalogus musicus VIII, Kassel 1978.

Otto Erich Deutsch: Franz Schubert. Thematisches Verzeichnis seiner Werke in chronologischer Folge. Neuauflage in deutscher Sprache bearbeitet und herausgegeben von der Editionsleitung der Neuen Schubert-Ausgabe und Werner Aderhold, Kassel 1978.

Franz Schubert. Ausstellung der Wiener Stadt- und Landesbibliothek. Katalog, herausgegeben von Ernst Hilmar und Otto Brusatti, Vienna 1978.

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. Ernst Hilmar, university lecturer, secretary general of the International Franz Schubert Institute, Kettenbrückengasse 6, A-1040 Vienna, Austria, phone +43 1 587 70 63, fax +43 1 586 55 68;

Dr. Rigbie Turner, Curator, The Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3403, USA, fax +1 212 481 3483;

Prof. Dr. Walther Dürr, honorary professor emeritus, chief editor of the Neue Schubert-Ausgabe, Schulweg 2, D-72070 Tübingen, Germany, fax +49 7071 55 06 17;

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Arnold Feil, professor emeritus, chief editor of the Neue Schubert-Ausgabe and president of the International Schubert Society (retired), Schützenstraße 22, D-72070 Tübingen (Hirschau), phone +49 7071 79 12 89, Germany;

Prof. Dr. Martin Chusid, New York University, Faculty of Arts & Science, Department of Music, Waverly, 24 Waverly Pl., New York, NY 10003, USA, phone +1 212 998 8305, fax +1 212 995 4147, e-mail: mc4@is6.nyu.edu;

Dr. Jordi Roch i Bosch, Associació Franz Schubert, Marina 164, Pral 3, E-08013 Barcelona, Spain, fax +34 93 26 59 080.

4. Management plan – see below Annex 1

The music manuscripts and printed music, the most valuable part of the Schubert Collection both by number of items and quality, are being stored in an air-conditioned, artificially lighted vault whose alarm system was refurbished according to the latest standards in October 2000. The rest of the Schubert Collection will be stored under similar conditions by 2003. All manuscripts are kept in covers of acid-free paper.

The Schubert Collection, together with all other holdings of the Vienna City Library, is attended by trained librarians.

Repeated handling and natural aging of the material have, however slightly, already left their marks. Therefore, restrictions concerning its accessibility have become unavoidable. A partial solution to this problem may lie in providing at least Schubert's autograph music manuscripts as photo-reproductions via digital media. This measure, which is currently being envisaged, would have the positive side-effect of offering a basis for a side-by-side comparison of the world's largest body of Schubert autographs with respective items of other collections.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria

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

Criterion 1 - Influence:

The Vienna City Library's Schubert Collection, by reason of its comprehensiveness, has inspired numerous research projects concerned with Schubert, thus leading to a better understanding of the man and his music.

Criterion 2 - Time:

Schubert's creative output, although rooted in the ideals of classical music, marks the beginning of the romantic era in music. Yet in some aspects of his musical language Schubert was decades ahead of his time and therefore comparable to none of his contemporaries.

Criterion 3 - Place:

Vienna is world famous as a city of great composers of the past. Unlike almost all of them, however, Schubert was actually born in Vienna and lived there most of his life. The "local touch" is particularly apparent in the works of Schubert, which represent Viennese "classical" music at its best.

Criterion 4 - People:

Franz Schubert is one of the greatest and best loved composers of all times and his music is continually played all over the world. Schubert's significance is also mirrored in the vast amount of literature, both scholarly and popular, dealing with his personality and creative output. More than in the case of other composers, Schubert's autograph music manuscripts lay the foundation for establishing a reasonably accurate picture of his career. As the bulk of his output was published and publicly performed only after his death, the evidence established by the manuscripts as to the time of origin of Schubert's works is of special importance.

Criterion 5 - Subject/Theme

The development of certain musical genres and forms, like the "lied" or the sonata form, has been strongly determined, if not re-defined, by Schubert's contribution.

Criterion 6 - Form and Style:

Schubert's autograph music manuscripts permit a highly interesting insight into his method of composition: he habitually formed his compositions entirely in his mind before taking down even a first draft. Subsequent corrections and alterations dealt solely with details, never with the general outline of the composition. This method was used only by a few other composers, who are rated among the world's most brilliant, like Mozart or Shostakovich.

Criterion 7 - Social Value

Schubert's circle of friends, an important factor of both his career and his private life, is a unique case in music history. Among them were men of literature, artists and senior officials. At the time of their closest friendship, they collectively aimed for the highest ideals of mankind, seeking to better each other. From this circle evolved the Schubertiads: a forum which not only served the performance of Schubert's compositions, but also, in spite of a pervasive atmosphere of political oppression, created opportunities for open-minded discussions which transcended the fine arts.

Secondary Criterion 1 - Integrity

The Vienna City Library's Schubert Collection contains the world's most substantial body of Schubert manuscripts as well as an almost complete collection of first editions of Schubert's works.

5.2 Contextual assessment including an assessment of the importance of a series of documents, the importance of a series of documents in a particular setting, and the assessment against other documentary heritage

Especially Schubert's autograph music manuscripts have served as indispensable source material for the New Complete Edition of Schubert's works. For several of Schubert's compositions the Vienna City Library's Schubert collection provides the only source material available.

5.3 An evaluation of the authenticity

The authenticity of Schubert's handwriting has been ascertained by specialists of the Vienna City Library's staff and reconfirmed by numerous international musicologists dealing with the compilation of the Thematic Catalogue and the New Complete Edition of Schubert's works. The same holds true for the identification of the first editions of Schubert's works.

5.4 An assessment of rarity (if appropriate)

6. Consultation

6.1 Details of consultation about the nomination with the:

- (a) Owner
Vienna City Library, represented by Dr. Walter Obermaier, Director
- (b) Custodian
Dr. Thomas Aigner
- (c) Relevant Regional or National Memory of the World Committee (if appropriate)

The Nomination was prepared in cooperation with the Austrian National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme.

7. Nominator

7.1 Name

The Austrian National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme

7.2 Relationship to documentary heritage

Dr. Heinrich Badura

Secretary, Austrian National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme

7.3 Contact person (if appropriate)

7.4 Contact details

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fax: +43 1 53120-6205

7.5 E-mail: heinrich.badura@bmbwk.gv.at **Web Site:**