



15

Tondokumente aus dem
Phonogrammarchiv der Österreichischen
Akademie der Wissenschaften
Gesamtausgabe der Historischen Bestände
1899–1950

Sound Documents from
the Phonogrammarchiv
of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
The Complete Historical Collections
1899–1950

Series 15/2

Indian Recordings

(Schomerus 1929)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Historical Collections (1899–1950)
of the Vienna Phonogrammarchiv
inscribed on the Register in 1999
Memory of the World



VERLAG DER
ÖSTERREICHISCHEN
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

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Die Historischen Bestände 1899–1950 wurden als
Dokumente universaler Bedeutung seitens der UNESCO
in das Weltregister des „Memory of the World“-Programms eingetragen.

UNESCO has included the Historical Collections 1899–1950 as
documents of universal significance in the World Register
of its “Memory of the World” Programme.

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Series 15/2
Indian Recordings (Schomerus 1929)

OEAW PHA CD 48
comprises 1 CD

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Jean-Luc Chevillard

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Ulla Remmer

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Nicola Wood

Introduction

With Series 16 – published after Series 15/1: *Indian Recordings (Exner 1904–05, Archive 1918)*, but before the present Series 15/2: *Indian Recordings (Schomerus 1929)* – the edition of *The Complete Historical Collections 1899–1950* has somewhat changed its layout; in fact, the data disc now also comprises the texts formerly published in the booklet. This decision represents a further step towards an electronic publication. For preservation reasons, however, we again opted for the production of a tangible medium, to be stored as a physical object in libraries or archives; in addition, this approach still offers playback of the sounds via conventional sound systems.

While the booklet format did not allow printing in a comfortable font size and quite often imposed restrictions on the texts, this new format strives to facilitate easy and comfortable use of the protocols and audio sources, as well as of the commentaries and transcriptions, together with special comments on the recordings. Text files can be printed individually or read on the screen, and, of course, they can be searched electronically – a convenient advantage over the conventional booklet.

For orientation purposes, a detailed table of contents is given in this small booklet. The data disc is organised in folders and chapters as listed in the contents; as a new feature, the transcriptions are additionally linked to the respective sound files in a compressed format (mp3). Nevertheless, the sound files in CD quality are still available on the audio CDs. In any case, it will be possible to listen and read at the same time, which has proved important when dealing with this commented source edition.

Series 15 is an exception within our edition in that its two subseries appear in different layouts, due to the fact that the completion of Series 15/2 had to be postponed; it was eventually adapted to the new format as used in Series 16 and 17, which had been published in the meantime.

The present edition contains the collection of 30 recordings of religious recitations of Tamil and Telugu texts established by Hilko Wiardo Schomerus in 1929, thus complementing

Series 15/1: Indian Recordings (Exner 1904–05, Archive 1918), which appeared in 2016. Series 15/1 features, on the one hand, the 68 recordings made by Felix Exner in 1904–05 (mostly recitations of Vedic and Sanskrit literature, but also specimens of the Phonogrammarchiv’s first recordings of Dravidian languages, including Tamil), and on the other, eight *Phonogramme* recorded in the Phonogrammarchiv in 1918 (primarily recitations in Hindi, Urdu, Awadhi and Braj Bhasha). It is also there that more information is available on technical issues relating to the phonographic recording technique, the Phonogrammarchiv’s methods and activities, as well as on the historical background of the recordings.

Like the majority of Felix Exner’s collection, the *Phonogramme* made by Schomerus were recorded in Madras (Chennai), although some 25 years later and presumably in another – unknown – location. Since then, they have been preserved in the Phonogrammarchiv, but unlike Exner’s *Phonogramme*, which were studied by Kirste (1908) and Felber & Geiger (1912), they have not been described in the scholarly literature or edited before their present publication. While Schomerus conducted his field research as a renowned scholar of Tamil studies, Felix Exner – the son of Sigmund Exner, founder and first director of the Phonogrammarchiv – was a meteorologist. It was only on behalf of his father that he took the newly invented *Archiv-Phonograph* with him to India in order to make recordings alongside his meteorological studies, relying heavily on the Academy’s network and the support of local specialists and colleagues.

This edition could not have been prepared without Ulla Remmer’s knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm, and without the help and expertise of Jean-Luc Chevillard; we are deeply grateful to both of them. Finally, thanks go to our technicians, Franz Lechleitner, Johannes Spitzbart and Nadja Wallaszkovits. They took on the burden of transferring the original recordings to modern data storage media, carefully edited and cleaned the signals from surface noises, and produced the master CDs.

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Re-recording: Franz Lechleitner, Nadja Wallaszkovits
Signal processing and mastering: Johannes Spitzbart, Nadja Wallaszkovits
Edited by Gerda Lechleitner, Christian Liebl and Ulla Remmer
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Series 15/2: Indian Recordings

(Schomerus 1929)

Audio CD	1–29	Madras/Chennai: Tamil
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	3	Documents
	4	Sound recordings as mp3 files

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