

Editors' preface

Published as *Series 15/2: Indian Recordings (Schomerus 1929)*, 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 (see Remmer, Liebl & Lechleitner 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 can be found on technical issues relating to the phonographic recording technique (Lechleitner 2016), the Phonogrammarchiv's methods and activities as well as the historical background of the recordings (Remmer 2016).

These, then, were the beginnings of what developed, at the Phonogrammarchiv, into some kind of collection focus on the culture of the Indian sub-continent: in the 1950s, relevant recordings were made not only in the archive (Walter Ruth), but also during actual field research in India (René Nebesky-Wojkowitz), followed by further expeditions in the 1960s and 1970s (Josef Haekel and Engelbert Stiglmayr, Hans Strasser, Traude Vetschera), and continuing up to the present, with Christian Huber's research in the Indian Himalayas, to mention just a few.

Like most 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. And 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 the help and expertise of Jean-Luc Chevillard; we are deeply grateful to him. 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.

Vienna, Spring 2018

Gerda Lechleitner, Christian Liebl, Ulla Remmer

References

Felber & Geiger 1912 = Felber, Erwin (with texts and translations by Bernhard Geiger). 1912. *Die indische Musik der vedischen und der klassischen Zeit: Studie zur Geschichte der Rezitation. Nach den Platten des Phonogramm-Archives der kais. Akademie.* (XXIII. Mitteilung der Phonogramm-Archiv-Kommission = Sitzungsberichte der Kais. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, 170/7). Wien: Hölder.

Kirste, Johann. 1908. *Die altindischen Platten.* (XIII. Bericht der Phonogramm-Archiv-Kommission der kaiserl. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien = Sitzungsberichte der kaiserl. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, 160/1). Wien: Hölder.

Lechleitner, Franz. 2016. "Technical comments". In: Remmer, Liebl & Lechleitner (eds.), 30–31.

Remmer, Ulla. 2016. "Indian recordings in the historical collections of the Phonogrammarchiv". In: Remmer, Liebl & Lechleitner (eds.), 16–29.

Remmer, Ulla, Christian Liebl & Gerda Lechleitner (eds.). 2016. *Indian Recordings (Exner 1904–05, Archive 1918).* (Sound Documents from the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences: The Complete Historical Collections 1899–1950, Series 15/1, OEAW PHA CD 38). Vienna: VOEAW.