ÖAW Austrian Academy of Sciences

Phonogrammarchiv

Online Presentation

The New Online Edition Series, *The Complete Historical Collections 1899–1950*

And its first volume,

Adolf Dirr's Recordings from the Caucasus (1909–10)



Online via Zoom

Wednesday
25 November 2026,
15:00 CET

Programme

Phonogrammarchiv
The Complete
Historical Collections
1899–1950



25 NOV 2026, 15:00 – 16:30 CET

Introduction

Words of Welcome

Kerstin Klenke, head of the *Phonogrammarchiv* (OeAW)
Conny Gruber, current executive editor, *Phonogrammarchiv* (OeAW)

Retrospective

Gerda Lechleitner, executive editor from 1999–2020

Presentations

The new online Edition Series and its first volume

Conny Gruber, *Phonogrammarchiv* (OeAW)

Adolf Dirr's linguistic recordings from the Caucasus

Thomas R. Wier, Free University of Tbilisi

The meaning of historical sound recordings from the Caucasus for communitites today

Alexander Kavtaradze, Ilia State University, Tbilisi

Discussion

Background

Launched in 1999 as a series of CD editions, *The Complete Historical Collections 1899–1950* was established by the *Phonogrammarchiv* to provide access to ca. 4,200 research-related historical recordings. Documenting music and speech by people across the world, they were made for linguistic, musicological and ethnological purposes.

The transition to an online format offers the possibility to reach and engage new and wider audiences interested in these historical sonic documents. At the same time, it raises new and old questions about what digital access and accessibility mean, and to whom. For each volume, a team of editors and experts critically engages with the sound recordings from multiple perspectives. They provide context both on what can be heard in the recordings and on the scholarly, economic, political and cultural histories that shaped how, by whom and with whom the recordings were made.

Volume 19, the first online volume, presents and contextualises Adolf Dirr's 48 linguistic recordings from the Caucasus made in 1909 and 1910. The recordings can be heard alongside interactive linguistic transcriptions and translations into the volume's two languages, English and Georgian. Dirr made recordings with 22 speakers in more than 17 languages and dialects in what are today Georgia, Dagestan (Russian Federation) and Azerbaijan.

ORGANISER AND CONTACT

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ZOOM LINK

https://oeaw-ac-at.zoom.us/j/66750644764?pwd=qFahtXsFDgXCb9wqcRMEUvOEINk08J.1

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