

*National Library of Serbia Digital
Collection of 78 rpm gramophone
records*

Vesna Aleksandrović
National Library of Serbia



Historical preview

1807 - Thomas Young

1857 - Leon Scott de Martinville designed **phonoautograph**

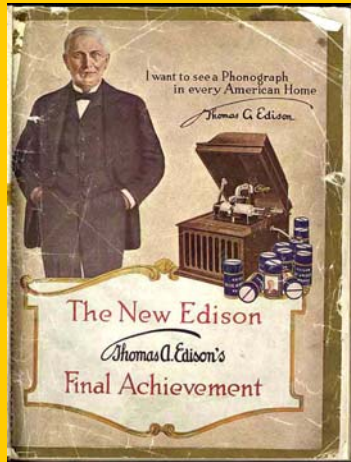
1877 - Charles Cros - **paleophone**

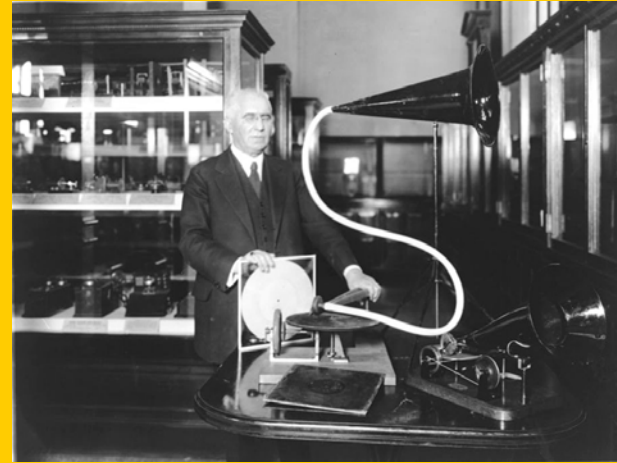
1877 - Thomas Alva Edison invented **phonograph**

1885 - Charles Sumner Tainter and Alexander Graham Bell -
graphophone

1887 - Emil Berliner invented a **gramophone**. One decade later
he starts to sell gramophone records. At the beginning of
20th century, the clock mechanism is built in gramophone.

At the mid twenties, Brunswick company shows its first **electric
gramophone**.





National Library of Serbia Collection of 78 rpm gramophone records

Collection of old gramophone records counts around 1100 records, published abroad and, with opening Jugoton factory, in former Yugoslavia.

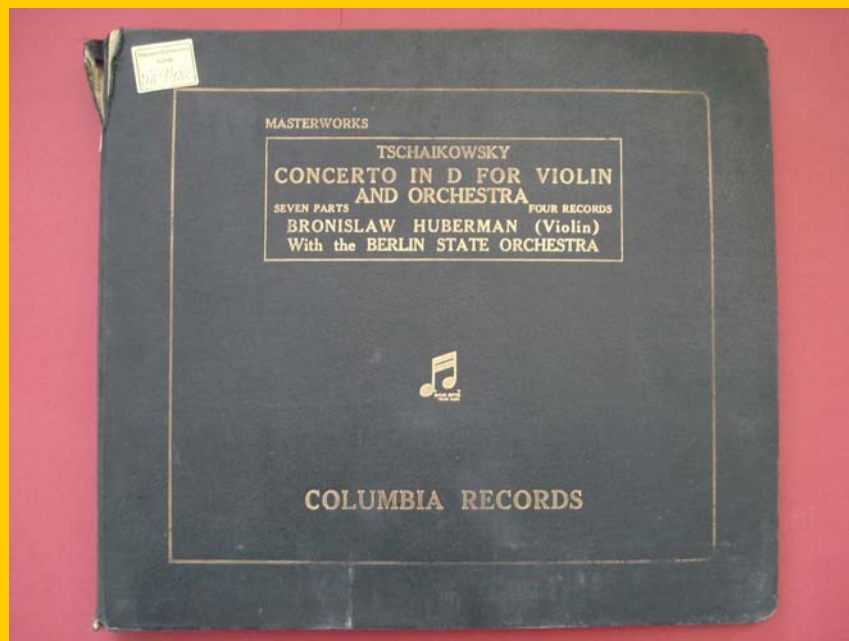
Records are very old and in bad condition.

Dusty, breakable.

Albums of gramophone records sorted by publisher, composer or on some other way.

There are recordings of Serbian and foreign authors and performers, so many different kinds of music and small number of speech recordings.

Albums



Publishers

Serbian performers was recording for 55 foreign publisher houses.

First factory for gramophone records on ex Yugoslavia territory was Edison Bell Penkala Record, established in 1926 in Zagreb.

1947 - Yugoslavia get its first gramophone records factory named Jugoton.

Publisher houses whose records we have in NLS collection: HMV, Odeon, Decca, Pathe, Edison Bell, Concert Record Gramophone, Jugoton etc.

Covers



Publishing year information

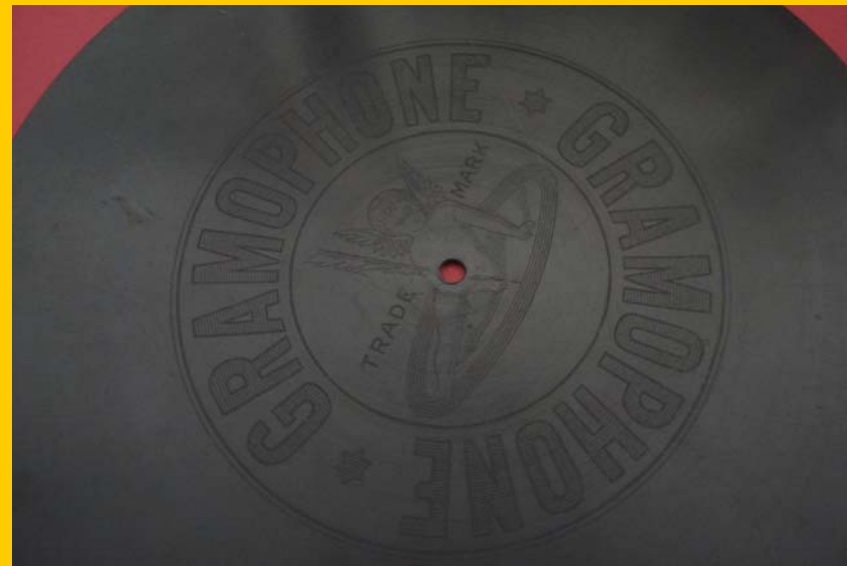
Lack of publishing year information.

Not placed on the label.

Sources of informations are publisher's catalogues, articles and advertisements from periodical and other publications, and (less reliable but sometimes very precious informations from) Internet or collectors.

The oldest record in NLS dates from the very beginning of 20th Century. It is HMV one sided edition from 1902, with Verdi's aria from Don Carlos opera on it.

The oldest record in NLS



The Oldest Serbian records in NLS

The oldest Serbian records dates from period from 1907 to 1910. The earliest Serbian recordings, around 20 of them, were made in Belgrade, around 1900, but published almost one decade later. The oldest recordings in NLS are performances of Joca Mimika, Stevan Bacic Trnda, Milan Busin (clarinet player from Belgrade), then Tamburitza band Srijem, King Guard's Orchestra (*One day from Belgrade Garrison life*) and comedian Petar Hristilic.

Label (Petar Hristilic, 1909) and catalogue



Authors and performers

Musical works of Serbian composers - Stevan Stojanovic Mokranjac, Stevan Hristic, Isidor Bajic, Stanislav Binicki.

Well known singers - Mijat Mijatovic, Sofka Nikolic, Teodora Arsenovic, Zivojin Tomic (tenor of Serbian National Opera), Vojin Popovic.

Ensembles: King Guard's Orchestra, Cicvarici Band, Choir Obilic-Krsmanovic etc.

Berlin Opera Orchestra, conductor Leopold Stokowsky, Arthur Rubinstein and Richard Wagner's son, Siegfried Wagner, conducting his father's opera at The Bayreuth Wagner Festival.

Composers: Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Mendelssohn and many others.

Digitalisation – why

Set the digitalisation goal.

Gramophone records which can not be played, or are broken, scratched or dusty, are not usable.

One value and large part of our collections was hidden, useless and not available.

Three years ago, NLS started project *Digitalisation of 78 rpm gramophone records*.

Cultural heritage, protection.

The Collection will be digitised on the whole, regardless Serbian or foreign authors or performers are recorded. Nevertheless, Serbian records will be formally set aside because NLS, through legal proceeding, have to proclaim this part of collection for Cultural Heritage. Certainly, it will be possible when the project of digitalisation ends.

Digitalisation - how

Converting of analog sound recording to digital format is understood and taken very seriously in USA, UK...

Process of digitalisation of old gramophone records is not so known in our country.

Problem because there is no general rule or standard.

Digitalisation of old records - delicate job which requires various skills and equipment. We can proudly say that NLS is pioneer of sound recordings digitalisation in Serbia.

Needs and Deeds

- ❑ Solid, acoustic gramophone with adjustable speed;
- ❑ Set of appropriate needles;
- ❑ Clean the record before putting it on gramophone;
- ❑ Gramophone – amplifier – PC connection;
- ❑ Sound remastering;
- ❑ Save the digital product.

Digital copy of analog gramophone record

Each record is saved on CD in 4 versions:

- ❑ uncleaned original recording for future more advanced methods of sound editing;
- ❑ completely edited and cleaned recording (some sounds can be lost);
- ❑ pseudo stereo recording (78 rpm's are mono recorded and we get stereo by plain copying one channel to another);
- ❑ optimally cleaned recording.

Storage of digital copy

Digitised recordings are also saved on NLS's servers (mp3, wave audio file).

Data for digital copy of each issue - entered in data base record of appropriate gramophone record.

Compact discs will be physically integrated in NLS CD collection.

Done and planned

Digitised almost 700 records. Project will be over till the end of next year.

NLS made Internet presentation, accesible on web address <http://www.digital.nbs.bg.ac.yu>. Part of The European Libraries Portal (TEL).

Donation or purchasing. To create the largest collection of old gramophone records, in analog and digital format, in country and region.

NLS is planning to establish National Sound Archive, to help digitalisation and get together all earliest sound recordings of Serbian music heritage at one place, huge data base.

Vesna Aleksandrovic
Music department
National Library of Serbia
Skerliceva 1, 11000 Belgrade
Serbia
vesnamusic@nbs.bg.ac.yu