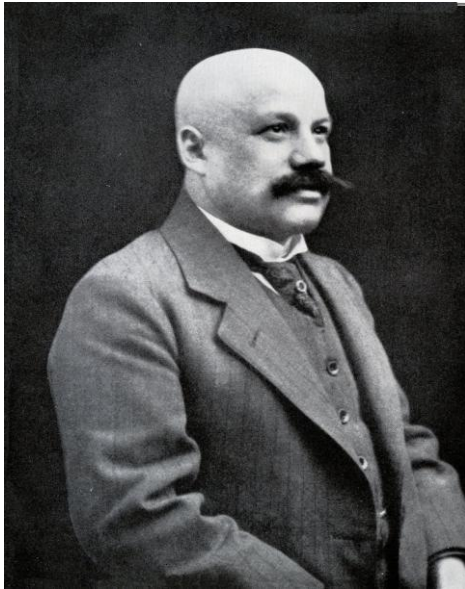


The Lindström-project

A cultural history of a German-based multinational record company, 1904-1960

WORK IN PROGRESS www.phonomuseum.at/ office@phonomuseum.at



Carl Lindström

Carl Lindström AG was one of the world's four multinational record companies before the Second World War. In many countries, the Lindström labels (Parlophon, Odeon, Homocord, Beka) were market leaders. Lindström artists ranged from opera singers to Balinese gamelan orchestras. They included conductor Willem Mengelberg, jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong, Finnish pop singer Georg Malmstén and East African folk singer Hadija Binti Abdulla. Between 1904 and 1945, Lindström and associated companies globally produced at least 100,000 titles.

In contrast to contemporary British and US companies, the history of Lindström is little known. The company archives were largely destroyed after World War Two. As a result, our view of the history of the recording industry has been one-sided, underestimating the role played by German industry. In May 2008, *Gesellschaft für historische Tonträger* (GHT; <http://www.phonomuseum.at/>) initiated a project which aims to document the history of Lindström.

The purpose of the Lindström project is to reconstruct the history and corporate structure of Carl Lindström AG in an European perspective, with an emphasis on the period before 1945, and show how the company influenced the recorded repertoire. It is assumed that much of the repertoire retained a local character, but the importance of a trans-national repertoire

continued to grow. The project will start with an outline of the global structure of the Lindström concern; proceed to a study of the company's production culture and case studies on specific genres of recorded music. First results are published in a new periodical

INVITATION TO THE WORKING SESSION

11th International Conference of Discography – 11.Diskografentag

CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC, UNIVERSITY OF HILDESHEIM/GERMANY

7th May 2010 – 9th May 2010