

Ferenc János Szabó:

The Sounds of the War. The First World War and the Hungarian Recording  
History

In my presentation I will give an overview of the years of the First World War from the point of view of the recording history. Though the research of the early Hungarian recording history is in an elementary stage, the approximate dating of several early gramophone records can be identified on the basis of primary and secondary sources, such as contemporary gramophone newspapers, advertisements and the contents of the sound recordings themselves. These data makes examinable both the recording firm's repertoire politics and responses to the historical events, and also the changes in tendencies for listening to music during the War.

In general one may claim that the First World War exerted a strong influence on the Hungarian recording history. Not only the published discs, but also some hiatuses are the consequences of the war. However, it is striking that in contrast to the statements of academic literary works, not all of the recording companies discarded their Hungarian activity after 1914, Hungarian recordings were made in Hungary and abroad as well until the early 1920s. For this reason, one can get acquainted with the auditory 'imprint' of the First World War in Hungary through these recordings.

The written and significantly extended version of the paper will be published later.