Middle Eastern Sound Collections at UC Santa Barbara Library

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UCSB Special Research Collections

Specialize in

- Local history
- California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives
- American religions
- Rare and Printed Books
- Performing Arts
 O Historical Recordings

Historical Recordings

Curated by Performing Arts Curator David Seubert

Collection shifted from Western/European focus to include

- Popular music
- Ethnic and immigrant recordings
- Records made abroad

Today, over 250,000 recordings in a variety of formats!

Importance of Documenting Recorded Sound

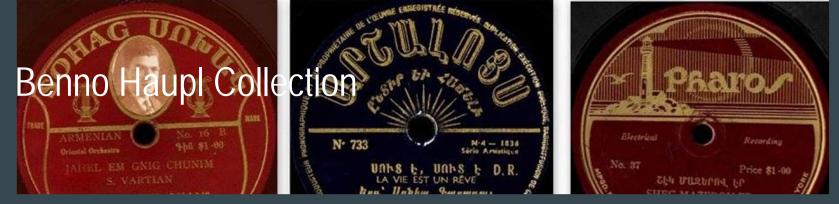
"The general lack of appreciation of the evidentiary value of textual elements on commercial phonograph discs by the archives profession goes against the grain of how music researchers look at a phonograph record. They see not only a document of the performance but also a document that contains textual information that augments their understanding of the performance, the performer, and the company that made the record."-Robert Pruter, "Words and Music," p. 58-59

...And Preserving Recorded Sound

Dr. Eric Ederer describes recordings as "difficult to find in their original format and reissued largely with poorly done transfers."

He also suggests they can be used to map changes over time, particularly as counternarrative to musical nationalism





Assembled one of the largest and most diverse 78 rpm collections

25 Edison cylinders; 9,000 78rpm discs; 2,100 photos (1860–1960) of traditional musicians with their instruments; and 130 sound recording trade catalogs!



Sounds of Iraq

Dawud al-Kuwaiti, Saleh al-Kuwaiti, and Hesen Cizrawi. Khunis, 1948





طوانان جيتما فجى















Other global collections

- Rainer Lotz collection
 - German discographer and jazz historian
 - Over 1,000 recordings, focus on blues and African-American music

• Edouard Pecourt collection

- Owned record store La Boîte à Disques in Paris
- Tango collection alone is around 10,000 78 rpm discs

Greece and Turkey

Kutay Derin Kuğay collection

- Filmmaker, hosted a radio show in Berkeley
- 428 Turkish and Greek 78 rpm discs

Joel Ackerman collection

• 314 Greek and Turkish recordings

Workflow

Items are:

Cataloged

Cleaned

Digitized

DAHR



Standardizing names

Mısırlı İbrahim Efendi 🗖

Avram Levi

Inconsistent transliteration

Lack of Arabic catalogers



Resources for Researchers

Digital collections

Special Collections Research Account

Request digital surrogates

Discography Of American Historical

Recordings (DAHR)

https://www.library.ucsb.edu/specialcollections/performing-arts/pasound



	Browse	Search	Resources	News	Ab
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Gramophone matrix 0GA-95. Argitopoula (Αργητοπυλα) / Rita Abatzi

Title		Source	Source		Description: Female vocal solo, instrumental		
Argitopoula (Αργητοπυλα) (Primary title)			Disc label	Disc label		trio	
Kalamatianou (Καλαματιανο) (Title			Disc label	Disc label		Instrumentation: Violin, guitar, and oud	
descriptor)						Category: Vocal	
						Marketing Genre: Greek	
Authors and Composers Elias lachovou (composer)			Notes			Language: Greek	
						Master Size: 10-in.	
Composer information s	iource: [Disc label.				Notes	
Personnel Rita Abatzi (vocalist)		Notes	Notes		Victor ledgers note that Tetos Demetriades wa present at the re-recording session.		
				- 8	Source(s): Victor blue history card; trade		
Dēmētrios Semsēs (inst	rumenta	alist : violi	n) Not confirmed.			catalog; Victor ledgers; disc.	
Take Date and Place	Take	Status	Label Name/Number	Format	Note		
Before July 1935 Athens, Greece	1	Master	Gramophone (Greece) AO-2196	10-in.			
Before July 1935 Athens, Greece	[1]1R	Master	Orthophonic S-319	10-in.	Issued from dub BS-87882, made 7/10/1935 at Victor's Camden, New Jersey Church Building.		



Before July 193



Questions?

Sources

The Benno Häupl collection.

Nagoski, Ian. To What Strange Place: The Ottoman-American Diaspora, 1916-1929. San Francisco, CA: Tompkins Square, 2011. Sound recording.

Pruter, Robert "Words and music : understanding the value of textual content on commercial sound recording labels." Archival Issues, vol. 25, no. 1/2, 2000, pp. 57–68. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41102026.

Ward, Jonathan. "Abdul-Wahad Ahmad – Qoyrat (Beshiri)." *Excavated Shellac*, https://excavatedshellac.com/2010/05/09/abdul-wahad-ahmad-qoyrat-beshiri/.

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