The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

Aldis Pūtelis
Archives of Latvian Folklore
Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

Fredericus Menius

Syntagma de origine

Livonorum

Dorpat, 1632 [1635]
De Origine Livonior. 4

Seu pausa semibrevis, gaudeant, hoc modo:

I. vox.

Manne Balte Namepfl/Deh manne weene

Rutenpf/Mann pelpte prejukus/ Pyta

swoeeste bundeling.

Hæc, quam dixi, Lettorum lingua est. Utuntur eodem canendi, modo in suo idioma est Bohnes. Frequentius tamem hæc sequenti, quæ utriq; genti quasi generalis sese est, non tantum praedictum spectum, sed quosvis etiam alias.
Johann Gottfried von Herder
1744-1803

Volkslied
Folksong as poetry
i.e.: text
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings
• The phonographs were used as an intermediate means in order to obtain *proper, publishable material* – (printed) score.
• The recordings are brief – only a verse or two in order to document the melody sufficiently.
• The transcription was done by different persons, with their own views, attitude and background knowledge.
• With the technology changing the original recordings became inaccessible and were considered inaccessible. Becoming *unnecessary.*
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

Artūrs Salaks
1891 - 1984
The song sounds in such intervals that are not found in our note system.
The melody was sung by a musically incapable person. Impossible to decipher.
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

The singer didn’t know the song.

I doubt the musical ability of the singer.
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

Emilis Melngailis
1874-1954

Kārlis Straubergs
1890-1962
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

The songs were written down by E. Melngailis. No need to decipher.
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings

Pēteris Barisons
1904-1947
The sound versus the score. Uses of recordings
These are just a few cases of limited comparison.

In some other cases it is not possible anymore – the cylinders have been lost or even shaved.

The moral:
each recording deserves to be preserved,
despite it being old, noisy or short.
Especially – if it is unique.
Thank you for your attention!

Ačiū už dēmesį!

Paldies par uzmanību!