

ON THE COLLECTION OF RECORDS STORED IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARY AND SOME PROPOSALS ON MAINTENANCE AND EXPLOITATION

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The Social Science Library (SSL) currently stores a collection of records with various contents not only in music but also other topics such as religion, policy, language and art, etc. Though the number of disks is not much, the collection has contributed to enrich the data sources in the library. Basing on practical survey and researches on content of the record collection, writer of this article would like to introduce information users the unique and some proposals to improve the effectiveness of maintenance and exploitation as well as to promote value of the collection in the current conditions of SSL.

1. Classical music - central theme of the collection

The collection of records currently stored in SSL comprises of 959 disks (Nguyễn Lê Phương Hoài, 2012, p.1) in various topics in which the most portion to be mentioned is classical music. *In terms of appearance*, more than 300 classical music disks are all vinyl ones. Each disk is protected by either a disk jacket or a disk case. *Name and content of the disk, author of the music/song, location of manufacture, manufacturer/ manufacture firm, year of manufacture, dimension of the disk, recording technology, disk production technology*

and disk rotation speed are indicated on the disk surface. This information can be written in various languages such as Russian, Polish, Hungarian, French, English and Spanish. There are disks information of which is written in 2 or 3 languages. For some others, there is no disk label and name; its content is shown by hand-writing. Most of the disk was produced before 1977. Classical disks were manufactured with analog recording technology, including either stereo or stereo-mono, 12 inch diameter, at rotation speed of 33 round/minute or

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33 $\frac{1}{3}$ round/minutes. *In terms of content*, compositions in classical music disks were composed by representative authors of Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods.

*** Baroque period (1600-1700) also known as pre-Classical period:** Opera appeared and became popular along with new types of music including cantata and oratorio. The group of disks belonging to this period consists of 3 disks of Arcangelo Corelli, 8 disks of Antonio Vivaldi, 16 disks of Johann Sebastian Bach and 4 disks of George Frideric Handel. In which, we must mention *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi (DL0125, DL0126, DS0236, DS0279), or cantatas, choirs, partitas, passions, the *Kaffee Kantate* (DL0065), *The last summer rose*, the suite for solo performance (DS0327) and many other symphonies by Johann Sebastian Bach and famous Spanish suite (DS0319) by George Frideric Handel.

*** Classical period (1730-1820):** 10 disks including compositions of Joseph Haydn made in Hungary and Russia during 1970s. For chamber music, there are string quartets in various tones. For symphonic music, there are Concertos for cello and theatres (DS0294), Sonatas and *Carnival section 9* (DS0257); 6 disks of W. A. Mozart made in Russia and Poland with description in both Russian and English or Polish. Contents include symphonies, sonatas and concertos such as Symphony No. 39 Eb Major and Symphony No. 32 G Major (DS0164); sonatas for flute and piano

(DS0330); concertos for piano and theatre (DS0268); and 26 disks of *Beethoven* in the collection of trios, quartets, symphonies and sonatas. Among these, we must particularly mention the symphonies including "Fate", "Pathetique", "Moonlight" and "Passion"; sonatas for violin such as "Spring"; concertos for piano such as "Emperor", concertos for violin and opening works including Overture Coriolan, Leonore and Egmont. All of the abovementioned are masterpieces of Beethoven.

*** Romantic period (1800-1910):** The collection of 86 disks of famous authors such as Franz Liszt (6 disks), Johannes Brahms (12 disks), Franz Schubert (8 disks), Robert Schumann (9 disks), Frederic Chopin (13 disks), Johann Strauss (2 disks), Alexander Borodin (3 disks), Antonin Dvorak (3 disks), Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov (5 disks) and Peter Tchaikovsky (25 disks).

The disks in this period consist of compositions of various types. *Symphony*: Spring Symphony (DL0098) and Rhenish (DL0100) by Robert Schumann; "New World" (DS0196) by Antonin Dvorak; "Pathetique" (DT0022), "Winter Dream" (DT0016) by Peter Tchaikovsky. *Poem symphony*: Poem symphony No. 3 by Liszt (DL0163). *Opening compositions* including 24 ones for piano by Chopin (DS0214) and Scherzo and Finale by Schumann (DL0157).

Compositions under national school include the ones composed by famous

authors such as Frederic Chopin; Franz Liszt; Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov and Franz Schubert with the Hungarian ballets and Spanish suites (DS0231). *Opera* consists of 2 composition “Swan Lake” and “Chestnut” by Tchaikovsky (DS0185). Compositions written for piano includes nocturnes and etudes (DS0325) by Frederic Chopin; easy segments for children to play piano (DS0354) by Robert Schumann; The Four Seasons suite (DS0198) by Peter Tchaikovsky; fantasies (DS0331) and Sonatas written for piano (DS0345) by Franz Schubert.

* ***Morden period (1890-1975):*** consists of 52 disks including 2 by Claude Debussy, 4 by Igor Stravinsky, 25 by Bartók Béla, 3 by Zoltan Kodaly, 10 by Dimitri Shostakovich and 9 by Sergei Prokofiev.

Claude Debussy - a French composer who is considered as the most outstanding composer in the field of musical impressionism. Among compositions of the 2 recording disks by Debussy in the collection, there are ones that were composed basing on Baudelaire's poem.

Béla Bartók - a great Hungarian composer who is considered as the major innovator in the European music in Twentieth century. Many compositions among 25 disks by Béla Bartók are of Hungarian and Rumanian folk music (DL0160; DL0150); and symphony for solo piano, piano and orchestra, strings, percussion (DL0149; DL0147) and

quartets (DL0168) and quintets (DL0165).

Zoltán Kodály - a Hungarian composer together with Béla Bartók are creators of Hungarian folk music. For Zoltán Kodály's compositions in the library's collection, we must mention the ones written for piano (DL0155), Hary Janós suite (DL0153) and the famous piece Ave Maria (DL0151).

Igor Stravinsky - a Russian composer who is famous with 3 ballets including L'Oiseau de feu, Petrushka and Le Sacre du printemps. In the library collection, there are 2 ballet disks of “Le Sacre du printemps” (DS0300; DT0032), 1 disk consisting of symphonies for piano (DT0033) and 1 disk consisting of Russian ballets (DL0122).

Dmitri Shostakovich - a Russian composer. There are 10 disks of Shostakovich in the library's collection. For chamber music, there are trios and quartets for piano (DT0026). For symphony, there are symphonies for violin and theatre (DS0207), “October” (DS0344), symphonies written for soprano, bass and orchestra (DS0280), “The Year 1905” (DS0224; DS0077; DS0078); “The Sun Is Shining Over Our Motherland” (DS0131). For film soundtrack, there are soundtracks in the movie “The Gadfly” (DS0217) and many others for piano and violin performed by well-known artists such as the violinist Guidon Kremer and the pianist Andrei Gavrilov.

Sergei Prokofiev - a Russian composer. Most of his compositions in the library's collection are symphonies such as symphonies for cello and piano (DS0303) and suites for cello (DS0259).

It can be said that, more than 300 recording disks in the collection stored at SSL comprehensively covers 4 music historical periods from Baroque to Modern. Though the number of disks for each period is not much, they are convergence of outstanding works of typical composer in each period. This can be considered as a relatively sufficient documentary sources for music collectors and researchers as well as individuals and organizations who love to learn and study about this field.

2. Other topics – diverse contents of the collection

Mentioning record disk, people tend to think of music. However, the collection of disks stored in SSL consists of up to 284 disks of many different fields including religion, literature, policy and other general contents. *In terms of language*, the 284 disks are in various languages including Vietnamese, Russian, German, English, Polish and Spanish. *In terms of form*, most of the disk are by plastic and in blue/green, red or grey, with dimension of $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches or 7 inches, at rotation speed of 33 round/min or $33\frac{1}{3}$ round/min, analog recording technology including stereo or stereo-mono sound. Besides, a number of disks were vinyl ones with a diameter of 12 inches at rotation speed of 33 round/min. *In terms of content*, the

collection are of story, poem, Chinese opera, and disks for foreign language self studying attached with work books, guidelines and lectures. Except for disks for foreign language learning functioning as illustrators and entry elements for learner to imitate the pronunciation, the others are in documentary types with the same characters as of regular books while the approach is not visual but audio.

* **Political and historical topic:** There are 11 disks in political field and 18 in historical. The political disks include presentations of Kalinin on Marxism-Leninism, presentations for Russian electors, speeches on General Antonio, readings on life and career of Lenin. Most of the contents of these 11 disks are of compliments. Among them, there is only one disk in Spanish which is about life and judgement on General Antonio - a General who contributed to the Cuban revolution.

The historical disks reflect political subject as well: 18 disks in Russian telling the Lenin's biography. These disks are about life and career of Lenin, in which the listener shall find a historical development period in Russia and the Russian October Revolution. The disks are presented in musical plays or storytelling art.

* **Religious topic:** There are 3 disks in Vietnamese and 1 in English. The Vietnamese disks consist of Amita prayer and Ngọc Hoàng prayer on peacefulness and long life, Bát Nhã prayer. These are Buddha prayers for

dying people and wishes the good things for every one. English disks are teachings of Buddhism including the teachings on keeping morality by Buddhism in Mon-Khmer language.

* **Linguistic topic:** There are 147 disks for Russian, Polish, Vietnamese, Chinese and German language learning, which are all attached with guide books. The disks include illustration on pronunciation, intonation and entry elements for learners. Particularly, some disks include video clips. Contents of the disks are mostly for specific learners such as beginning learners or Russian for Vietnamese people.

* **General content:** That is the Medical encyclopedia (Sv 54 375) which consists of 34 disks in Russian.

* **Literature-art topic:** There are 86 disks on literature and 104 disks on art. Most of the disks on literature include plain verse of poems, stories and plays under “cổ đạo ả phiến” and “hồi tiểu” singing styles or poem reciting presented by well-known singer under the art of “ca trù”. In addition, there are quotations of episodes of popular rules adapted into kịch, chèo, tuồng and cải lương performed by famous artists from the North to the South before 1945 such as Truyện Kiều, Holly Water Vial and Chinh phụ ngâm. These rules carry certain value in the literature and art of the ancient Tuồng of Vietnam (For example, DIS 24 the poem “*Chiêu Hồ viếng Tống Cốc*” performed by singer Nghị under the style of “than gốc hạc” and Ly and Duc orchestra). In addition,

there are stories for children and adults, poems and stories about life and career of Lenin. The literary works are presented under the style of gently leading the listener by storytelling. These works tend to be adapted by other type of arts into their plays or performance. Therefore, in the collection of record disks of the library, the topic of literature is integrated into the topic of art. The disks of art topic counts for more than 10% of the whole collection, which is of Vietnamese traditional folk art from three regions of the country including musical plays, reciting poems, plays and Chinese opera performed in Vietnamese, Polish, Russian and Chinese languages. The disk of art topic are presented mostly under the style of folk art including ca trù, classical drama, traditional operetta, reformed theatre and some others.

- **Ca trù:** is presented in record disks under the style of singing. This style is similar to the type of “cổ đạo ả phiến”, the regular “hát đờn”, ancient “hát đờn” and many other “ca trù” types which have been currently degraded such as the singing type “trống qua”, “dịp đuối”, “sa lệch” and “sắp đẹp đuối”. The outstanding property of the type “singing while speaking” in “ca trù” is the clever combination between literature and music. Therefore, “ca trù” works presented in the disks are mainly poems which are performed under the style of singing and speaking of “ca trù”. The artists who perform “ca trù” is called “kép”. On the disk cover,

information on styles performed by which “kép” is described.

- **Tuồng (classical drama)** : also known as “hát bội”, “hát bội” or “luồng tuồng”. Vietnamese classical drama is divided into two groups including “tuồng pho” and “tuồng đồ”. “Tuồng pho” includes dramas under the style of typical “kịch lệ”. These are drama on typical classical references from Chinese or Vietnamese historical books. “Tuồng đồ” are dramas written in ancient Vietnamese script (Nôm letters) and Vietnamese roman alphabet from Vietnamese literature works which were adapted into Tuồng. “Tuồng đồ” is entertaining, humorous and suitable for the recreation style of the sections of common people. The works of Tuồng presented in the disk collection consist of both “tuồng pho” and “tuồng đồ”. “Tuồng pho” includes the dramas Phụng Nghi Đình, Viên Môn Tiết ứng luồng and Thoại Khanh - Châu Tuấn. “Tuồng đồ” includes Lam Sơn Uprising and Trưng Nữ Vương. All of the abovementioned are considered as typical classical dramas in the art of Vietnamese ancient Tuồng. “Hát bội”, “hát khách”, “hát nam” and others typical singing styles of Tuồng are all performed and recorded in the disks. For example, the one coded D0071: *Tổng từ đơn hùng tín* which recorded singing style in “Tuồng đồ” such as “nói lối”, “hát khách” and “hát nam”. It is the typical feature of Tuồng dramas that brings the true value for Tuồng disks in the library’s collection. The abovementioned Tuồng dramas were all

performed by well-known ancient Tuồng artists of Vietnam before 1945.

- **Chèo (traditional operetta)**: There are 20 disks including distinguished and typical traditional performances of Vietnamese Chèo such as “Xúy Vân giả dại”, “Vện cả đôi đường” and “Lọ nước thần” along with “Kim Kiều ước thệ”, an adapted Chèo work. In addition, there are typical singing styles of ancient Chèo like “điệu bóng mượt” and “điệu xa mượt”. All of Chèo singing styles and performances recorded in the library’s disk collection are of Vietnamese ancient Chèo before 1945. Nowadays, the Chèo performed on Vietnamese stages are adapted Chèo which appeared in 1940s of the previous century. The ancient Chèo performances and singing styles in the collection have helped to reserve the quintessence of traditional art of Chèo, which shows the true value of Chèo disks in the collection.

- **Cải lương (reformed theatre)**: is the traditional art which appeared from early 20th century. This is the style of musical drama basing on folk songs of the Mekong Delta and ritual music. “Vọng cổ” was also introduced in Cải lương at the same time and became a singing style under the art of Cải lương. Well-known “vọng cổ” and Cải lương works before 1945 and typical performances are all presented under Cải lương style in the library’s disk collection. Among the disks, “vọng cổ” and Cải lương works are distinguished; for example, DIS 47 “Đất kỹ thợ hình” is vọng cổ. D0081 “Hoa rơi cửa phật” is

Cải lương. Among 37 disks of Cải lương style, 26 are of “vọng cổ” and 11 are of Cải lương. These are famous and considered as distinguished works of Cải lương art such as “Dạ cổ hoài lang”, “Hoa rơi cửa Phật” and “Triệt giang”.

- **Other types of art:** includes poem, drama, musical drama and Chinese opera.

In which, *Poem*: 8 disks including Polish, Vietnamese (Tay people's) and Russian poems. Polish and Russian poems are presented under the style of musical drama with episodes. These are poems singing the praise of the heroic sacrifice of anti-fascist fighters, long poems singing the praise of leaders, country's landscapes and showing the love for life and among lovers. Vietnamese poems are presented under the style of plain verse of Vietnamese poem reciting art with well-known works such as “Chinh phụ ngâm” and “Truyện Kiều” which are performed by Vietnamese famous artists before and after 1945 (For example, DV0016, “Truyện Kiều”, reciting artist: Quách Thị Hồ, “đàn đáy” instrument: Đinh Khắc Ban). *Drama*: includes episodic dramas singing the praise of the national revolution and uprising as well as the leaders. There are 14 disks under the abovementioned revolution topic, the dramas of which are of broadcasted drama style. *Musical drama*: there are 12 disks including musical dramas performed under the style of poem or episodic dramas in Russian. Contents of these musical dramas are to sing the

praise of leaders, anti-facism fighting of Soviet Union's people. *Chinese opera*: 2 disks including classical references and modern Chinese operas singing the praise of comradeship and the Communist Party of China such as “Tác nhân yếu tác giá dạng địch nhân”, “Thù hận nhập tâm yếu phát nha”, “Học nhĩ ta tâm hồng đảng tráng chí như cương”, “Huyết trái hoàn yếu huyết lai thường” (KKH 16).

In summary, it can be said that the disk collection which is currently stored in SSL is extremely diverse and of various aspects. This has eliminated the thoughts that record disks are of solely music and indicated that disks are merely information carrier. Contents of the disks are as various and diverse as that of books. The difference between abovementioned documentaries is exploitation approaches. Approach to exploit books is visual method (reading) while that of disks is audio (listening). It is this approach that makes disks a diverse and attractive source for users during information exploitation, learning and studying.

3. Current situation and some proposals on SSL's disk collection maintenance and exploitation

Findings of the survey on the management and exploitation of the disk collection stored in SSL show the follows.

- The collection is currently stored and maintained in the special warehouse with sufficient equipment to ensure

temperature and humidity together with other security equipment such as fire fighting system.

- To enhance the effectiveness SSL's management as well as to meet the demand of studying of information users, SSL has established a disk database with 7 discription factors of the software CDSISIS for Window which is currently integrated with the software Milenium. Information users can access via computer system installed in reading area or via the website <http://www.opac.issi.gov.vn>.

Findings of the survey on physical conditions of the collection indicate that the collection is under destruction process including dust infection, scratch, chip, surface crack, torn cover, lost label or more serious problem so-called "vinegar syndrome. 100% of the disk collection are of one of the abovementioned problems (Nguyễn Lê Phương Hoài, 2012). These problems may caused by many reasons including surrounding environment and people's activities in disk maintenance and utilization. Basing on the current situation and degree of disk damage as well as researches and references on disk management and exploitation of this particular documentary sources in some other libraries and storage centers, we would like to submit some proposals on the maintenance and exploitation of disk collection in SSL.

- **Create and maintain proper temperature and humidity for disk maitenance:** The collection shall be

maintained in a non-dust and dry environment with the least impact of light and heat. Sunlight shall be comprehensively avoided. Artificial light is recommended (with a limited degree) in disk storage and maintenance. It is perfect to store disk in dark environment. Air conditioner and dehumidifier may be used to maintain a proper weather for disk storage.

- **Anti-dust for disks:** dust or air pollution may cause scratches and fungi on disks' surface. Dehumidifier should be used to clean the floor of disk storage; towers shall be periodically used to clean cover of disk boxes and disks so as to avoid dust from the environment or the one caused by human.

- **Overcome "vinegar syndrome" on the record disks:** Once a disk has "vinegar syndrome" with symptoms such as venigarish smell, crystal clear growth, stickiness or black fluid flow, it shall be separatedly packed.

- **Remove vinegarish smell for disks** by dehydrating so as to remove acid from the disks. To hydrate the disks, sealed room which is equiped with ventilation system by electric fan in room temperature and humidity shall be used.

- **Remove fungi** for disks by moist wiping with isopropyl-alcohol solution or netral soap, or manual cleaning with tetracyclin and 90° alcohol if the disk is of mild damage.

- Attention shall be paid to the follows in **disk management**.

+ Disk maintenance during researches or in light areas may gradually cause scratches on disk due to external stains.

+ Temperature and humidity shall be regularly checked.

+ Once fungi are notified, the disk shall be separately packed for settlement.

- Clear regulations on ***exploitation and utilization*** shall be strictly applied for people who wish to use the disk for researches as follows.

+ Researcher who wish to listen or watch the disk to quote the contents they need should fill in the demand registration form.

+ Library staff shall monitor the activities of listening and note taking of researchers so as to remind in case of regulation violation.

+ During the process of using disk readers, researchers are not allowed to automatically use the equipment but

guided by the library staff. Equipment damage shall be avoided to be made by users □

References

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