

DEUTSCHE GRAMOPHONE

Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft.

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1905 (CP51)_Deutsche Gramophone, Aktien-Gesellschaft, Kniestrassse 18. Hanover 1905 (actually used London DEC 15 1903)

Comment:

Emile Berliner was the inventor of the gramophone and a disc that could be played on it. The American patent for this dated 29 September 1887. After a decade of both technological and commercial experimentation, Berliner returned to Europe in 1898, first forming the Gramophone Company, London; and together with his brother Joseph, the Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft, Hanover.

Within a decade, the company was producing several million records a year. His business partner, Fred Gaisberg, recruited extraordinary artists such as Enrico Caruso, Feodor Chaliapin and Dame Nellie Melba. In 1941, motivated by Ernst von Siemens , Deutsche Grammophon was taken over by Siemens & Halske. In 1962, the recording arm of Siemens linked up with the Dutch firm of Philips to create the DGG/PPI Group, which, in 1971, led to the creation of PolyGram. Siemens withdrew from the group in 1987, leaving Philips with a majority shareholding.

In 1998, the Seagram Company Ltd., based in Canada, acquired PolyGram and formed the Universal Music Group. Deutsche Grammophon is now part of Universal Classics.

References:

1. Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft. www.deutschegrammophon.com
2. 111 Years of Deutsche Grammophon http://www.dg-111.com/en_GB/home