A Survey of the Music Catalogues of Whistling and Hofmeister

It has been found somewhat difficult for those interested in the fundamentals of German music bibliography to refer to the different catalogues compiled by Whistling, Hofmeister and others, owing to the different and complicated forms in which their work appeared. These appeared under a variety of different titles — Handbuch, Monatsbericht and Verzeichnis — and at varying periods, monthly, yearly and in cumulative volumes at irregular times. During the last thirty years or so a far wider interest in music bibliography has arisen than ever before, and we — German and English bibliographers — feel that it is high time the confusion existing about these handbooks was clarified in view of the few literary sources that are available at the moment.

Carl Friedrich Whistling, born at Kelbra in 1788 according to F. S. Gassner’s Universal-Lexikon der Tonkunst, Stuttgart 1849, was a bookseller in Leipzig and was quick to see the need to compile a catalogue of all printed music available at the time for the German music trade. In the preface to this first Handbuch der musikalischen Litteratur, dedicated to Annisius (the last manager of the Berlin music-selling firm of Hummel), Whistling stated that it was intended merely for private use, but he hoped that its appearance would soon find a wider public. The title-page and contents of this work are as follows:


The success of this first handbook was such as to justify Whistling’s continuation of the project, and in 1818 he embarked on a supplement which again was published on commission by Meysel. During this year Friedrich Hofmeister (1782–1864) showed an interest in the publication and offered his own publishing house (founded in 1807) as a means of its continuation. As a result of this, in the following year Hofmeister published a second supplement and continued yearly until the issue of the eighth in 1825. Public interest began to wane, and Hofmeister decided to back out of the venture and handed it back to the compiler, Whistling, with the result that the latter was compelled to publish the ninth and tenth supplements of 1826 and 1827. The following is a list of the ten supplements to the first edition of 1817:

Nachtrag (supplement) No. 1–10, compiled by C. F. Whistling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>End 1815 — Easter 1818</td>
<td>Meysel</td>
<td>1818</td>
<td>IV+72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Easter 1818 — Easter 1819</td>
<td>Hofmeister</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>VI+78</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Easter 1819 — Easter 1820</td>
<td>Hofmeister</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>VI+57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Easter 1820 — Easter 1821</td>
<td>Hofmeister</td>
<td>1821</td>
<td>VI+88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Easter 1821 — Easter 1822</td>
<td>Hofmeister</td>
<td>1822</td>
<td>IV+68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Easter 1822 — Easter 1823 Hofmeister 1823 VI+84
7 Easter 1823 — Easter 1824 Hofmeister 1824 VI+86
8 Easter 1824 — Easter 1825 Hofmeister 1825 VI+66
9 Easter 1825 — Easter 1826 Whistling 1826 IV+64
10 Easter 1826 — Easter 1827 Whistling 1827 IV+68

Supplement No. 1 contains on page IV some corrections to the Handbuch from 1817! — In 1828 Whistling decided to gather together the information given in the original volume of 1817 together with the ten supplements of 1818—1827 and published them as a second, revised and enlarged edition, which appeared in that year:


The following year Whistling published a supplement to the collective volume of 1828; this was issued in 1829 with an index of names to the entire work to-date, a list of music publishers — as promised upon the title of the volume of 1828 — and pagination continuous to the second edition:


It was at this stage that complications began to set in. Already in his foreword to the second edition Whistling had announced that in future he would publish at the end of each month (or bi-monthly) a report of all new publications in the same manner as his hand-book. These Monatsberichte, as he called them, were first published in January 1829 and continued under his own imprint until June 1830. At this point Hofmeister made his reappearance on the scene, and the monthly series then commenced with his imprint and so continued from 1831 right up to the modern time of 1942, in which year the title was changed to Deutsche Musikbibliographie.

Ditto 1830. C. F. Whistling (January—June), Friedrich Hofmeister (July—December), pp. 96
Ditto 1831. Friedrich Hofmeister, pp. 104
Ditto 1832. Friedrich Hofmeister, pp. 98
Ditto 1833. Friedrich Hofmeister, pp. 100

After the first five years of the Monatsberichte, the sons of Friedrich Hofmeister and Carl Friedrich Whistling, Adolph Moritz Hofmeister and Fritz Whistling, compiled a second supplementary volume to the second edition of 1828 and published it in 1834. This was repeated in 1839 to cover the previous five years of the Monatsberichte, which were called “Neue Folge”, This “Neue Folge” was in fact a second series, the first having been the volume of 1829—1833. In neither case was the number stated on the title-page.
Handbuch der musikalischen Literatur oder allgemeines systematisch geordnetes Verzeichnis
gedruckter Musikalien, auch musikalischer Schriften und Abbildungen mit Anzeige der Verleger
und Preise. / Zweiter Ergänzungsband, die von Januar 1829 bis zum Ende des Jahres 1833 neu
Leipzig, bei Fr. Hofmeister. 1834 (Compiler: Adolph Hofmeister and Fritz Whistling. Format &
pages: Octavo. Title, verso blank. Preface, [I]–II. List of the members of the “Verein deutscher
Musikalienhändler” list of those firms which went away or which were taken over by other firms,

Musikalisch-literarischer Monatsbericht neuer Musikalien, musikalischer Schriften und Abbildu-
Angefertigt von Ad. Hofmeister. Leipzig, bei F. Hofmeister. — Title, verso blank, [I–II]. Text,
pp. 108
Ditto. New Series, vol. 4, 1837, pp. 144
Ditto. New Series, vol. 5, 1838, pp. 96

Handbuch der musikalischen Literatur oder allgemeines systematisch geordnetes Verzeichnis
gedruckter Musikalien, auch musikalischer Schriften und Abbildungen mit Anzeige der Verleger
und Preise. Dritter Ergänzungsband, die von Januar 1834 bis zum Ende des Jahres 1838 neu erschie-
pages: Octavo. Title, verso blank [I–II]. List of those firms which went away or which were taken
over by other firms; list of those music publishers who had died [III]–IV. Contents [V]–VIII. Text,
pp. [1]–407. Advertisement [408]).

We have just seen that the last volumes of the Monatsberichte did not bear any series
number, but with the publication in January 1839 Hofmeister started to number them as
“Dritte Folge” right up to the end of 1843.

Musikalisch-literarischer Monatsbericht neuer Musikalien, musikalischer Schriften und Abbildu-
1839. Angefertigt von Ad. Hofmeister. Leipzig, bei Friedrich Hofmeister. — Title, verso blank [I–II],
Text, pp. 160
Ditto. 3rd Series, vol. 2, 1840, pp. 176
Ditto. 3rd Series, vol. 3, 1841, pp. 200
Ditto. 3rd Series, vol. 4, 1842, pp. 200
Ditto. 3rd Series, vol. 5, 1843, pp. 196

Because the Monatsberichte were being published in so many small parts there arose
the necessity of issuing a new edition of the Handbuch since the last to appear had been
in 1839. Accordingly in 1844–1845 Hofmeister brought out his third edition, divided into
three parts with separate paginations, the first two in 1844 and the third in 1845; the
last was published with the main-title for all three parts. Hitherto all the publications
had been in octavo but now a change in size was made to quarto, a practice that has been followed for the Handbuch right up to the present day. This volume was compiled by
Adolph Hofmeister in collaboration with Carl Röthing and August Whistling and called
for the first time C. F. Whistling’s Handbuch in honour of the founder of the work.

Main-Title:

C. F. Whistling’s Handbuch der musikalischen Literatur oder allgemeines systematisch-geordnetes
Verzeichnis der in Deutschland und in den angrenzenden Ländern gedruckten Musikalien auch musi-
kalischen Schriften und Abbildungen mit Anzeige der Verleger und Preise. Dritte, bis zum Anfang
des Jahres 1844 ergänzte Auflage. Bearbeitet und herausgegeben von Adolph Hofmeister. Leipzig,
1845, bei Friedrich Hofmeister. (Title, verso blank, [I–II]. Preface of the editor, dated Leipzig, March 1st, 1845, [III]. Index of music publishers and list of those music publishers who had died and of those firms which were taken over by other firms, IV–V. Contents to part 1–3, VI.).

Titles of the three parts as the main-title with the imprints:
   (Title, verso Contents, [I–II]. Text, pp. [1]–142).
   (Title, verso Contents, [I–II]. Text, pp. [1]–336).
   vorzüglicher Werke, Textbücher und Portraits. Leipzig 1845.  
   (Title, verso Contents, [I–II]. Text, pp. [1]–240).

From the foundation of the Monatsberichte in 1829, Whistling and Hofmeister, it will have been seen, had been issuing concurrently the Handbuch, but in 1852 Hofmeister inaugurated a third series which he called Kurzes Verzeichnis for the first two years, omitting the Kurzes afterwards. This was again published in octavo size. The material contained in it followed that which appeared in the monthly parts, but arranged in a more convenient form so that, instead of the reader having to search through a number of parts for each year, he could immediately discover what he was looking for.

Kurzes Verzeichnis sämtlicher im Jahre 1852 in Deutschland und den angrenzenden Ländern 

gedruckter Musikalien auch musikalischer Schriften und Abbildungen mit Anzeige der Verleger und 

   (Title, verso blank, [I–II]. Text, pp. [1]–109).

Since 1853 in a systematic arrangement
Since 1854 called Verzeichnis
1855–1856 with the imprint Redigirt von Adolph Hofmeister
1857–1869 with the imprint Herausgegeben von Adolph Hofmeister
1870 with the imprint Bearbeitet von Franz Jost
Since 1871 in alphabetic and systematic arrangements
1871–1873 without name of compiler
Since 1874 with the imprint Herausgegeben und verlegt von Friedrich Hofmeister

The following list will indicate to the reader the three concurrent lines of publications 
of the Whistling and Hofmeister catalogues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handbuch</th>
<th>Verzeichnis</th>
<th>Monatsbericht</th>
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<tr>
<td>1818–1827, Suppl. No. 1–10</td>
<td></td>
<td>1834–1838 New Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828, 2nd. edition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1829, 2nd. edition, suppl.</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td></td>
<td>1839–1843, 3rd. Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td></td>
<td>1844–1851, 4th. Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844–1845, 3rd. edition, 3 parts [vol. 1–3]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852 [vol. 4]</td>
<td>1852</td>
<td>5th. Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
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<td>1858</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>1858</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A more detailed survey of these columns is given at the end of this article. It will be of some interest to the reader to know that the earlier volumes of the Handbuch do not contain by any means all music published in the German-speaking countries with additions from some foreign countries, but only that available at the time. It is necessary therefore for the reader to consult the prefaces in the earlier volumes. It must also be noted that the Monatsberichte do not contain anything like all the music that had just been published and many an item that does not appear in them may be found in the Handbuch or the Verzeichniss — or vice versa.

If one is dating editions from information given in the Monatsberichte it should be remembered that the work in question may have been issued more than one month before.

Concerning the Monatsberichte only, we should draw the reader’s attention to the fact that sometimes Hofmeister was in the habit of substituting his title-imprint for that of other book and music sellers. For instance we are aware of copies of the 1844—1849 volumes with the imprint of T. Trautwein, Berlin in the Berlin State Library, 1852—1856 volumes with the imprint of C. F. Leede, Leipzig in the British Museum, and some time ago copies were seen with the imprint of Stettinsche Buchhandlung, Ulm.

Finally, it might be of interest to know that copies of the cumulative volumes of the Handbuch were available for purchase up to the beginning of the Second World War.

Throughout this article it will have been observed that no mention has been made of the location in libraries of any copies. No complete set is known to exist but in many a library there are runs for a certain number of years and odd volumes here and there. Information on this score would therefore be greatly appreciated by the authors.

Appendix A: Handbuch

1. Aufl.  1817.  8°
1818 bis 1827. Nachtrag 1 bis 10.

2. Aufl.
1828.
1829.  Ergänzungsband 1
1834.  Ergänzungsband 2
1839.  Ergänzungsband 3

3. Aufl.
1844.  Teil 1 und 2. (Whistling's Handbuch Bd. 1 und 2)
1845.  Teil 3 (— Bd. 3)
1852.  Ergänzungsband 1 (— Bd. 4)
1860.  Ergänzungsband 2 (— Bd. 5)
1868.  Ergänzungsband 3 (— Bd. 6)
1876.  Ergänzungsband 4 (— Bd. 7) Hrsg. von Fr. Hofmeister
1881.  Ergänzungsband 5 (— Bd. 8)
1887.  Ergänzungsband 6 (— Bd. 9)
1893.  Ergänzungsband 7 (— Bd. 10)
1900. Ergänzungsband 8 (- Bd. 11)
1906. Ergänzungsband 9 (- Bd. 12)
[1910.] Ergänzungsband 10 (- Bd. 13)
[1915.] Ergänzungsband 11 (- Bd. 14)
[1920-21] Ergänzungsband 12 (- Bd. 15)
[1924-25] Ergänzungsband 13 (- Bd. 16)
1929. Hofmeisters Handbuch der Musikliteratur, Bd. 17
1934-35. Bd. 18

Appendix B: Verzeichnis – Jahresverzeichnis
Band
[3] 1854. Verzeichniss(s)
9 1860.
10 bis 18 1861 bis 1869
19 1870. Bearbeitet von Franz Jost
20 bis 22 1871 bis 1873. Jetzt systematisch und alphabetisch geordnet, ohne Namen des Herausgebers
78 bis 91 1929 bis 1942. Hofmeisters Jahresverzeichnis.
Jahresverzeichniss der deutschen Musikalien und Musikschriften.
Bearbeitet von der Deutschen Bücherei. Leipzig
92 bis 93 1943 bis 1944
94/97 1945/1948 in einem Band!
98 ff. 1949 ff.

Appendix C: Monatsberichte

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Band</th>
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<th>Jahr</th>
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<td>[Erste Folge, Bd. 2]</td>
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<td>[3]</td>
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<td>[4]</td>
<td>[Erste Folge, Bd. 4]</td>
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<td>[Erste Folge, Bd. 5]</td>
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</tr>
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<td>[6]</td>
<td>Neue Folge, Bd. 1</td>
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</tr>
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<td>[7]</td>
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<td>1836</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
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Deutsche Musikbibliographie
Bearbeitet von der Deutschen Bücherei. Leipzig

115 bis 116
[117 nicht erschienen]
118/119
120 ff.

Mai 1945/1947. Formatwechsel: 8°

1948 ff.

Formatwechsel: 4°