

## WSLB 119 - Handwritten letter from Schenker to Hertzka (UE), dated June 5, 1912

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/WSLB-119.html>]

[Writing shift ->] Sehr geehrter Herr Direktor [Emil Hertzka]!

Soeben langt der Brief von Ihrer Buchhaltung ein.<sup>1</sup> Leider erfahre ich daraus nicht, wie viel Exemplare abgesetzt worden sind, u. ob der Preis von 60 Kr noch eingehalten sein wird. Auch führt der Brief eine II Aufl. an, während das Titelblatt eine III. anzeigt.<sup>2</sup> Sehen Sie, das Nachgehen solcher Kleinigkeiten macht Tantiemenverträge sehr, sehr unbequem. Ich ersuche also Ihre Buchhaltung, mir Auskunft über die beiden Punkte zu geben. Nach<sup>†</sup> Klarstellung derselben kann ich je erst verstehen, ob ich die überwiesenen 100 Kr. anzunehmen berechtigt bin oder nicht.<sup>3</sup>

Ich könnte mir ja denken, daß Sie selbst es waren, der gleichsam ein „Ehrengeschenk“<sup>4</sup> mir überweist, in Anerkennung für die Tapferkeit, die mein Vertrag<sup>5</sup> aufweist, aber dann ~~es~~ soll auch dieses klar u. unzweideutig feststehen. Denn der Betrag ist doch so minimal, daß ich mir überlegen müßte, ein Geschenk in dieser Höhe anzunehmen. Um so billigen Preis {2} wäre ich dann bemüßigt, von meinen sehr netten Beziehungen zur „U.E. [Universal Edition]“ zu sprechen, was indessen ein falsches Licht auf meine Bestrebungen u. ihre Erledigung durch die „U.E. [Universal Edition]“ werfen würde. Während ich unausgesetzt dafür eintrete, daß gute, dauernde Werte, die allein den wahren Wohlstand begründen es können ~~daher~~ verbreitet werden sollen – der deutsche Werkbund,<sup>6</sup> s. das *feuilleton* von heute,<sup>7</sup> tritt ebenfalls dafür ein –, sammle ich Erfahrung um Erfahrung, daß in Österreich [Oesterreich] gerade solchen Werten ausgewichen

[Writing shift ->] Dear Director [Emil Hertzka],

The letter from your book-keeping department has just arrived.<sup>1</sup> Regrettably, it does not tell me how many copies have been printed, or whether the price of 60 Kronen will still be maintained. Also, the letter speaks of a 2nd edition, whereas the titlepage proclaims a 3rd.<sup>2</sup> As you can imagine, checking up on such details makes royalty contracts very, very uncomfortable. I am therefore asking your book-keeping department to give me information on both points. Only<sup>†</sup> after I have clarification of these points will I be able to determine whether or not I am justified in accepting the 100 Kronen that have been transferred.<sup>3</sup>

I could only imagine that it was you yourself who transferred to me a so-to-speak "honorary payment"<sup>4</sup> in recognition of the courage exhibited by my contract<sup>5</sup>; but then even this ~~ought~~ should be established clearly and unambiguously. For the payment is so minimal that I would have to ponder whether to accept a gift of this size. At so cheap a price, {2} I would then be obliged to speak of my very nice relations with UE [Universal Edition], which would in turn show up my endeavors and your settlement via UE [Universal Edition] in a false light. While I strive unremittingly so that good, enduring values, which alone can provide the basis for true prosperity, shall be disseminated # the German Work Alliance<sup>6</sup> (see today's *feuilleton*)<sup>7</sup> strives likewise for that # I am accumulating more and more evidence that in Austria [Oesterreich] precisely such values are shunned. From the moment on when the publisher of the "Coaching Song"<sup>8</sup> rejected my *Theory of Harmony*

wird. Von jenem Augenblick an, wo der Verleger des Fiakerliedes<sup>8</sup> meine Harmonielehre [Harmonielehre (NMTP, I)]<sup>9</sup> zurückwies, mache ich die Erfahrung, daß ich *puncto* einiger Beträge von 100–1000 Kr., die ja also wahrhaftig noch keine zu nennen sind, einiges Entgegenkommen finde, daß **ich** aber darüber heraus kein Echo finde, trotzdem ich kommerziell stärkste Werte anbiete. Ich will einmal noch deutlicher, als ich es in der „Vorrede“<sup>10</sup> getan, die Ursachen aufdecken, weshalb in Österreich [Oesterreich] der Verlag nicht gedeihen kann, – in demselben Österreich [Oesterreich], dessen Ministerium plötzlich Geld {3} genug findet, mehrere Lehrer mit voller Pension vorzeitig heimzuschicken, um kostspieligere Minus-Künstler einzutauschen<sup>11</sup> –, u. da sollen mir nicht solche Beträge, wie diejenigen, die ich von der *U.E.* [Universal Edition] beziehe, nach Art eines Trinkgeldes gegeben u. genommen, im Wege stehen.

Ich bitte Sie daher, sehr geehrter u. lieber Herr Direktor, es durchaus nicht auszuverstehen, wenn ich die 100 Kr zu Ihrer Verfügung halte, solange die Buchhaltung<sup>12</sup> nicht den Nachweis erbringt, daß mir ein Recht darauf zusteht. Wahrlich, käme es darauf an, ein Geschenk darzubieten, ich wäre fähig, 10 mal mehr sofort z.B. an das Personal der „*U.E.* [Universal Edition]“ zu verschenken, da ich selbst reichen Leuten das ganze Jahr über Geschenke zu machen gewohnt bin.

Ich kämpfe, wie Sie sehen, um Wahrheit, Korrektheit, wahre, große Werte u. will damit den Beweis erbringen, daß ich auch ein sehr tüchtiger Kaufmann bin. Weisen Sie, bitte, Ihre Buchhaltung an, mir sobald als möglich Auskunft zu geben, {4} damit die armen 100 Kr. ihren Platz endlich finden.

Mit besten Grüßen Ihr  
ergeb[ener]

[Harmonielehre (NMTP, I)],<sup>9</sup> my experience is that in the matter of some amounts of 100 to 1,000 Kronen, of which there are thus in reality still none to speak of, I find some willingness to oblige, but that above that [figure] I find no response, despite offering the strongest values in commercial terms. I will one day reveal even more clearly than I have done in my Foreword<sup>10</sup> the reasons why publishers cannot flourish in Austria [Oesterreich] # in the selfsame Austria [Oesterreich] in which the Ministry suddenly {3} finds enough money to send home several teachers prematurely on full pension, in order to replace them with pricier non-entities of artists<sup>11</sup> # and therefore such sums of money as those I obtain from UE [Universal Edition], given and received as if they were tips, ought not to stand in my way.

I beseech you, my very dear, revered Director, not to misconstrue it if I hold the 100 Kronen at your disposal so long as your book-keeping department<sup>12</sup> does not provide evidence that I have a right to it. Truly, if it were to come to giving a present, I would be capable, ten times more so immediately, e.g., of giving a present to the employees of UE [Universal Edition], since I myself am accustomed to giving presents the whole year round to rich people.

As you can see, I fight for truth, correctness, true, great values, and seek by so doing to prove that I too am a very skilled business man. Please instruct your book-keeping department to give me the information I require as soon as possible, {4} so that the wretched 100 Kronen can at last find its rightful resting place.

With best wishes,  
Your devoted  
[ signed: ] H. Schenker [Heinrich Schenker]  
June 5, 1912

[ signed: ] *H Schenker* [Heinrich Schenker]  
5. Juni 1912

## Citation

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## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> = OC 52/404 [<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-404.html>], June 4, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> Schenker is referring to the Niloff, *Instrumentations-Tabelle* [Instrumentations-Tabelle (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1908)]. The confusion over the numbering of editions arises from the fact that a limited schools edition was issued in 1908, followed by the first public edition on February 6, 1909 and the second edition in May 7 and August 23, 1912

<sup>3</sup> See OC 52/405 [<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-405.html>], June 5, 1912 for bank document.

Schenker has an interest in the production and sales figures of his Niloff, *Instrumentations-Tabelle* [Instrumentations-Tabelle (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1908)] because in the contract (OC 52/421

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-421.html>], June 20, 1908), he forewent the honorarium on the first 2,000 copies in order to maintain a shop price of 1 Mark (1.20 Kronen); he thus is keen to check when he becomes entitled to an honorarium of 100 Kronen per 1,000 copies sold.

<sup>4</sup> "Ehregeschenk" (lit. "honor present" or "complimentary gift," even perhaps "back-hander"): the word does not appear in surviving correspondence from UE/Hertzka 1908–1912; indeed, it is a word more characteristic of Schenker's rhetoric than of Hertzka's. (The word is used by August Demblin and Alfred Einstein of Drei Masken Verlag [Drei Masken-Verlag] on January 20, 1925 (OC 54/12 [<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-54-12.html>]) to describe Hertzka's publication of Schenker's journal *Der Tonwille* [Der Tonwille (1921-24)] # almost as if it were a "loss-leader" # and then briefly adopted by Schenker.)

<sup>5</sup> = OC 52/421 [<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-421.html>], June 30, 1908. By "courage," Schenker is presumably referring to the terms of that contract: see footnote 2 above.

<sup>6</sup> "Deutscher Werkbund" ("German Work Alliance"): an alliance of manufacturers, retailers, and designers formed in Munich in 1907, believing that German industrialization was a threat to national culture. Its founder was the architect Hermann Muthesius. Up to 1911, it espoused modernity, and believed that beauty came through form, not decoration. After 1911, this was contested within the movement.

<sup>7</sup> *Neue Freie Presse* feuilleton, June 5, pp. 1#3, "Modernes Kunsthandwerk (Ausstellung des k. k. Oesterreichischen Museums. # Der deutsche Werkbund.," signed "A. F. S" [Adalbert Franz Seligman [Adalbert Franz Seligmann].

<sup>8</sup> "Fiakerlied" ("Coach Song"): ("Fiaker" Austrian = fiacre (Fr), cab, coach); a popular Viennese song, written by Gustav Pick in 1885, beginning: "A echter Weana Fiaka, / is` stolz auf sein`n Stand, / mia hab`n a an Charakter, / zeig`n euch gern Stadt und Land."

<sup>9</sup> Publisher's who rejected Schenker's offer of his *Harmonielehre* [Harmonielehre (NMTP, I)] (Stuttgart: Cotta, 1906) were UE/Weinberger (OC 52/442 [<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-442.html>]) and 443

[<http://www.schenkerdocumentsonline.org/documents/correspondence/OC-52-443.html>], April 13 and October 21, 1905) and Breitkopf & Härtel (probably OJ 9/20, September 6, 1905). UE certainly issued volumes of popular and folk songs, and several albums of zither music, so the remark is likely to be a pointed one.

<sup>10</sup> Vorrede: probably referring to the Forward to his monograph *Beethovens Neunte Sinfonie* [Beethovens Neunte Sinfonie (Vienna: Universal Edition, 1912)].

<sup>11</sup> Mention of "Minus-Künstler" suggests an allusion to the situation at the Vienna Conservatory/Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst [Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst, Wien] as exposed by his close friend Moriz Violin in his pamphlet *Die Zustände an der k. k. Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst* (Vienna: self-published, 1912), which refers particularly to the "zwangweisen Pensionierung der bisherigen Kompositionslehrer . . . Herren Professoren Fuchs und Grädener." ("compulsory pensioning-off of the erstwhile composition teachers . . . Professor [Robert] Fuchs and [Hermann] Grädener") and previously the piano professor August Sturm (1909), to the fact that Arnold Schoenberg [Arnold Schoenberg] and Franz Schreker [Franz Schreker] were among the shortlisted candidates for the Professorship in Music Theory, and to the disgrace that Schenker's name was not on that list.

<sup>12</sup> "Ich bitte ... Buchhaltung" ("I beseech ... department") sidelined in the left margin, possibly by Schenker, possibly by a UE employee.

## Format

† Double underlined