

philharmonia orchestra

May 2009 – Interaction in the Arts

Michael Hoffmann – Philharmonia Orchestra Trustee

At the age of twenty-three my grandfather became a member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and also an active participant in the State Opera Orchestra. In addition to the world of music he was very interested in art and also literature; he wrote poetry and was interested in literary works. Mainly, he painted and I have a lot of his works where you can really see two sides: the more traditional painting of members of the orchestra and artistic world that he knew – and there was a period of influence of Klimt and then Schiele which he certainly was struck by and that got him involved in some of the later Secessionist artistic exhibitions.

A lot of his friends from that world mixed with the musical world, and therefore, quite naturally they would not only attend each other's conference but also buy each other's works.

Bernhard Kerres – Wiener Konzerthaus

Many of these people were not only one artist, but had lots of artistic ideas and were artists in many respects, and exchanging these views was extremely important for them. There was influence going on all the time.

Michael Hoffmann

In addition to music, painting and literature my grandfather's family had a great interest in new decorative arts of the period. They were collectors of decorative art and great supporters of the Wiener Werkstätte and the interesting, unusual pieces that were being put together.

Berhard Kerres

All these very intelligent, extremely interesting, creative people came together and they lived in an environment which was not easy for them. Nevertheless, they shared a lot of ideas, and they had this coffeehouse culture where they met and shared this interest together. They had lots of discussions, they spoke together and they worked together which must have been a really intense and rich time.

Michael Hoffmann

These people all seemed to influence each other, and in fact, the interactive nature of their relationships probably helped to create such a dynamic world and to encourage the acceptance of a changing world.