

***Richard Wagner in Contemporary Photographs***  
by Gunther Braam

**Appeal for support of an important project**

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***Richard Wagner in Contemporary Photographs***

- is arranged in chronological order
- is illustrated in colour throughout
- includes all surviving original photographs of Wagner
- is supported by illustrated commentary
- includes an introductory essay on the role of photography in the context of lithography and 19<sup>th</sup>-century portrait painting
- contains a Preface by Eva Wagner-Pasquier

**For the first time, all** surviving 66 photographic portraits of Richard Wagner will be united in this 200 page catalogue published to commemorate Wagner's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013.

Three of the portraits have never been published before:

- the picture taken by Louis Buchheister in Paris, hitherto reported lost, **one of the earliest photographs of Wagner** (probably from 1861), showing the composer seated, full length
- a hitherto unknown variant of the session in the studio of Mebius in Moscow (1863)
- a group portrait in front of the Villa Wahnfried by Adolph v. Gross, different from the often-reproduced shot from the same session, **one of the three last photographs of Wagner** (1881)

Two further portraits (by Steinberg and by Luckhardt) have remained almost unknown.

Finally, it will be possible to see Richard Wagner **in three dimensions for the first time** on a recently discovered stereoscopic photograph.

Since the history of the reception of some of the photographs is also of interest (e.g. as woodcuts in newspapers and as models for caricatures), the catalogue will contain **roughly 100 colour illustrations**.

The iconographies of Wagner-photographs by Vanselow (1908), Geck (1970) and Weber (1993) are quoted as references. Cross-references can be easily followed and comparisons clearly set out.

The editor **Gunther Braam** is author of the iconography *The Portraits of Hector Berlioz* (Kassel 2003), a compilation of all contemporary portraits of the French composer, awarded the Musikeditionspreis "Best Edition" in 2004.

The **Richard Wagner Verband München e.V.** is a partner in editing the book.

The publishers **ConBrio**, who will take care of the project, have, among other books, published: Ernst Burger: *Franz Liszt. Leben und Sterben in Bayreuth* (2011), 114 illustrations, 154 pages, € 19,90

**Appeal for support**

Because there is still a financial gap to bridge, we need **your help**, so that all surviving photographs of Richard Wagner can be united for the first time in a high-quality picture book meeting the best printing standards as a fitting commemoration of Wagner's bicentenary.

It would be a fine gesture if you would support the project with a tax-deductible donation. The book will contain a Roll of Honour with the names of all contributors (with the contributor's agreement).

You can print the form (pdf-format) at:

[www.conbrio.de/wagner](http://www.conbrio.de/wagner)

"I am delighted that this picture catalogue will be published to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of our great-grandfather, and I wish this project any possible support it can win."

– Eva Wagner-Pasquier

The photo above:

**Richard Wagner**

**Photograph by Pierre-Louis Pierson**

**Date: between 28 Octobre and 4 November 1867**

**Proof in carte de visite format**

**Collection of Gunther Braam, Munich**

Between 28 October and 4 November 1867 Wagner was staying in Paris, where he visited the Universal Exhibition. On one of those days four photographs of him were taken in the studio of Pierre-Louis Pierson (1822-1913).

The brothers Léopold-Ernest and Louis-Frédéric Mayer had founded a photographic studio in 1841, operating under the trade name *Mayer frères* since 1850. On 24 January 1855 the Mayer brothers merged their business with the studio of Pierre-Louis Pierson, who had been active as a photographer since 1844, thus creating *Mayer frères & Pierson*, called *Mayer & Pierson* from 1863. From 1864 Pierson ran the business on his own until 1874, when Gaston Braun took over.

The inventory of all photographs taken in the studio of *Mayer frères & Pierson* starts in January 1855 at the numbers around 11,350 and ends in 1884 with numbers around 75,900.

Wagner's portraits bear the number 57,179 and are dated in the inventory as from September 1867. As in similar cases (e.g. Berlioz) the date in the inventory differs from the date of the actual session by one month.

The original glass negatives are located at the *Archives départementales du Haut-Rhin, Colmar (Musée d'Unterlinden, Société Schongauer)*, inventory number: caiss. 260 (170) and caiss. 261 (328).