

# Chapter 14: From Cylinders to WordPress: Using Digital Sound Archives for Short-Form Radio Programs

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## 1. “Der Graf von Luxemburg” by Craig Kober

In “Der Graf von Luxemburg,” theatre major Craig Kober discovered an interesting story about a German operetta and its author, Franz Lehar, who thought it would be a failure. (This project is also available on *Sound Beat* at <http://soundbeat.org/episode/der-graf-von-luxembourg/>.)

### Transcript

*[record static plays briefly, then an orchestra of horns and strings fades in and quickly fades into background]*

**Brett Barry:** It’s that age old tale of love and marriage . . . and money. You’re on the *Sound Beat*.

*[sample of overture with horns and strings again fades in again and out to background]*

You’re listening to the Opening Overture of Franz Lehar’s 1910 operetta Der Graf von Luxemburg.

*[sample of overture with horns and strings once again fades in again and out to background]*

We are often our own harshest critics; before its debut, Lehar called the piece “Sloppy work, completely useless.” Despite his opinion, the play ran for 299 straight performances in its original run. The story tells of a bankrupt playboy count, approached by a Russian prince with a . . . semi-indecent proposal. He’ll pay the Count’s debts if the Count agrees to marry the object of his affection. The marriage would be a sham (but, really, what marriage isn’t? Sorry . . . happy anniversary, honey).

*[crickets sound effect]*

Anyway, the move would make her royalty, a divorce would make her single, and the Prince would make her his wife. How could it possibly go wrong? Find out right now at Sound Beat dot org. This episode was written in part by Syracuse University Student Craig Kober as part of the *Sound Beat* class partnership.

*[overture fades in briefly and transitions to orchestral Sound Beat theme]*

*Sound Beat* is produced at the Belfer Audio Archive, Syracuse University Library. I’m Brett Barry.

*[theme fades out]*