

12-27-1963

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (coulter)

Eliot Coulter

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### Recommended Citation

Coulter, Eliot, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (coulter)" (1963). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 726.  
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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (coulter)

### Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

### Keywords

Henri Temianka, Eliot Coulter, December 27, 1963, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, family, death, love, children, holiday, legal matters, clergy, religion

2401 Fort Scott Drive  
Arlington, Virginia  
December 27, 1963

To the very dear friends of  
Betty and Eliot Coulter

Our Betty, so lovely, so warmly outgoing and so wonderfully thoughtful and always so considerate and so gay, has left us! We all feel, I know, that a certain light of the world has gone out of our lives and that the world is the sadder for her loss. She left us warm memories of a very wonderful person, our Betty, which we shall always cherish dearly. I need say no more except to add for those who have not heard, that on Friday, December 20th, 1963, Betty after a happy day, went to bed without wanting any supper. I awaited a call from one of the children due to arrive by bus during the night, although she did not come until the next day. I went to bed in the dark not wishing to disturb Betty, but actually she had already gone out, as I discovered in the morning when I found a note saying that she had gone for a walk and would be back. We waited, expecting her to come in during the day. We hoped that she had gone to a friend's to rest. We checked with friends and with the nearby motels. We kept hoping that she would come in on Christmas Eve or on Christmas day for she had so looked forward to seeing the children and had made many preparations to make it a happier day. When Christmas passed, I, who had become more and more pessimistic, went with Douglas to see the police on Thursday. Arrangements were immediately made with the fine cooperation of volunteer police and fire department officers for a close search of the area. As I was covering a nearby region with Lieutenant Carr, he received a message to say that Betty's body had been found in the Fort Scott Playground wooded area among the trees. She had been there for nearly a week under the snow. The police believe that she died of exposure, for the temperature that night had gone down to 5°. Whether she had taken a sleeping pill earlier and this had later made her drowsy, had lain down to rest and could not survive the intense cold or whether there was some other cause, I do not know, and have not thought it necessary to determine. The police did not ask for an autopsy.

Our children, Douglas, Holley, Jean, and Malcolm (the only one Betty saw, the others not having arrived yet) were here and have been a solace to each other and to me, but nothing can ever take away the sadness - for Betty is no longer with us to come in with her joyous inspiring personality. We all love her dearly and have wonderful memories to ease the pain - we can and must go on as she would wish us to do.

We arranged for cremation as she always wished, and for a Memorial Service to be held Tuesday, December 31, at 3 o'clock at the Beverly Hills Church, 3912 Old Dominion Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia, William E. Basom, Pastor, for her many friends and for the loving thoughts of those who cannot be with us at the service.

May God take tender care of my dearest Betty, my dearest sweetheart whom I married August 22, 1939 at the Lutheran Church, opposite the Folger Library in Washington.

May God bless you all.

*Emmy, Henry, Danny & David -  
This is very sad news -  
Thank you for the Card with picture  
of the boys - We will keep  
in touch!*

*Eliot*  
Eliot

*Eliot*