

6-10-1983

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (ncousins)

Norman Cousins

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/temianka_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Cousins, Norman, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (ncousins)" (1983). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 826.
https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/temianka_correspondence/826

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Henri Temianka Archives at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Henri Temianka Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (ncousins)

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, Norman Cousins, June 10, 1983, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, concert tours, food, hotel, Leo Szilard

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND
BIOBEHAVIORAL SCIENCESADDRESS REPLIES TO:
RM. 2859 SLICHTER HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

June 10, 1983

Henri Temianka
2219 S. Bentley, Suite 202
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Dear Henri,

I have not yet thanked you for the letter you wrote that was given to me the night you came to dinner at the Beverly Hilton with your gifted young companions. Your letter was included in a special volume and I say to you, quite shamelessly, that I expect to be turning to it time and again. I have already made much music out of your grand lines. It amazes me that you remember so fully the little spoof involving Leo Szilard. There was one aspect of it that may not have come to your attention. After much persuasion, we finally were able to get Leo to take a ride on the chairlift. His reluctance was not without philosophical justification. He pointed out that anything connected with machinery was fallible, and that anything connected with humans even more so. Hence the combination was to be avoided if possible, and he included a chairlift experience among those things that it was clearly within his power not to do. Finally, he acquiesced. Unfortunately, when his chair was over the longest and highest segment of the journey, the lift stopped abruptly. I looked back at Leo alone in the chair behind me. It was, like ours, still swaying wildly from the force of the sudden stop. But Leo smiled and waved at us. At the ^{very} least, I had expected him to be clinging frantically to the armrests or even sharing his lunch with the wildlife in the forest far below. He appeared to be enjoying himself hugely. Later, he declared he had known all along that I had pre-arranged the entire affair for his benefit -- and he was ready for it. I told him that I had done no such thing and that what had actually happened was that one of Betty Westfeldt's little boys had jumped off his chair at the intermediate landing and the operator immediately pulled the stop switch. Leo looked at me and could see that I was telling the truth. That was when he turned pale.

One of our greatest blessings in coming to California has been to reap the dividends of your presence here. I share this feeling with the whole blasted town.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norman Cousins".

Norman Cousins