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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (hsimon)

Henry W. Simon

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March 9, 1959

Mr. John Schaffner  
312 East 53rd Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Schaffner:

I return herewith the material for a proposed book by Henri Temianka.

As you know, I had discussed a book with Henri shortly before you sent the material; and yesterday morning, after I had read the material, he and I had a long telephone conversation about it.

I like Henri very much; he is a splendid musician; he writes easily and well. Nevertheless, despite batting ideas back and forth to each other, we did not hit upon a formula or an idea for a promising book by him. We are in agreement, I believe, that a straight autobiography would have rough going, while a collection of occasional pieces made up of those he has already done and those he will still do would be no more attractive in the book market. On the other hand, he is, quite sensibly, not prepared to undertake a serious book involving research, such as one I suggested to him - a history and critique of violin-making and violin makers.

He has been writing these short pieces entirely from his own previous experiences and observations and what he has to say about making movie shorts, about his Dutch violin teacher, about working in cafes and a circus is valid, often amusing, sometimes even moving. But it is just what it was intended to be - magazine material not book material.

We plan to keep in touch with each other, and when either of us thinks he has a solution to the problem, or even a bright idea, we will be in touch again.

Thank you for sending over the material.

Sincerely yours,

Henry W. Simon

HWS np

Enclosure

cc Mr. Henri Temianka ✓