

2-20-1981

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lte)

Henri Temianka

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### Recommended Citation

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (Ite)

### 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, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, press, February 20, 1981, discontent, legal matters, California Chamber Symphony Society



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# Names to Match Our Streets of Dreams?

By HENRI TEMIANKA

Most of the world's major cities acknowledge the great men and women in their history by naming streets, or erecting public monuments, in their honor. Not Los Angeles.

The fact that artistic giants like Thomas Mann, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Igor Stravinsky and a thousand others lived here seems so far to have gone unnoticed. Yet more than a dozen streets all over Los Angeles are named after someone named Beverly—from Beverly Court, Drive, Place and Boulevard to such fancy combinations as Beverlywood, Beverly Gardens and Beverly View, not to speak of the separate city of Beverly Hills. Who was Beverly? I don't know, but she must have been one hell of a gal. Not even Einstein, Churchill or Kennedy rates as much attention and adulation within a single community.

A few Los Angeles streets do bear such luminous names as Pickford, Huxley and De Mille, but the omission of first names leaves the exact identity of the nominees in doubt.

All this is preliminary to the proposal that I am about to present.

Innumerable projects have been submitted to celebrate the Los Angeles bicentennial, many ranging from the inane to the frivolous. I believe that one of the most significant ways to celebrate Los Angeles' 200 years of achievement would be to rename some of the city's streets to commemorate the impressive number of citizens of stature who lived here and created works of enduring value for the whole of humanity. The contempt and ridicule that people around the world are so fond of heaping on Los Angeles would be once and for all refuted if the proof of accomplishment were to confront them on public corners and in the

street addresses of our much-maligned city.

In the domain of music, Los Angeles had the signal honor of being the residence of two giants of our century, Stravinski and Arnold Schoenberg, as well as Rachmaninoff, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Ernst Toch, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and William Grant Still. Conductors Leopold Stokowski, Bruno Walter and Otto Klemperer made their homes here, as did pianists Artur Schnabel and Jose Iturbi, violinist Joseph Szigeti, cellist Gregor Piatigorski and violist William Primrose.

Of course, the immortals of film can be counted in the hundreds—the legendary Barrymores, Charles Laughton, Charles Chaplin, Samuel Goldwyn, Adolph Zukor and Darryl Zanuck; Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers, Jack Benny; innovators such as Walt Disney; choreographers such as Adolph Bolm, and the master directors, from Jean Renoir to George Seaton and John Ford.

In the pantheon of writers: Thomas Mann, Heinrich Mann, Bertolt Brecht, William Faulkner, Lion Feuchtwanger, Franz Werfel, Christopher Isherwood, Dalton Trumbo, Clifford Odets, Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and, quite possibly, John Steinbeck lived here while such classics of theirs as "A Farewell to Arms" and "The Red Pony" were adapted to the screen.

Nor should we overlook monumental architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra, painters and sculptors, sports champions, Nobel Prize winners and scientists whose achievements have brought glory to Los Angeles.

I have no apology to offer for the incompleteness of this survey. There must be many other people more qualified than I to

add hundreds of names and categories that have overlooked. I believe that a committee should be formed to receive suggestions and to sift them judiciously.

If the honor of street renaming is to have meaning, it would best be applied in a logical manner—and not all at once, or we'd have panic in the streets—with the names of film luminaries around that industry's historical sites, of scientists around the institutes of learning where they experimented and taught, of writers in the hills where most of them resided and produced their masterpieces.

Of course, it would be helpful if the signs also carried information about the honoree—his or her profession and the dates of birth and death.

The purpose of this suggestion is not merely to impress the outside world, which until now has taken such a mean and jaundiced view of our city. It also should instill in the younger generation of our community a knowledge and pride of their heritage, which they sorely lack.

I recently received a letter from a professor of music at a small college in New York state, asking me to delete the name of Harry Truman from an article that I had written because, he said, "Most of the students don't know who Harry Truman was."

We must not permit this sort of thing to happen here. In honoring Los Angeles' illustrious citizens, we would be making a great contribution to our city, in the true spirit of the bicentennial celebration.

*Violinist Henri Temianka is the founder and conductor of the California Chamber Symphony, and the author of "Facing the Music," recently reissued in paperback.*