

11-19-1987

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bonvalot)

Cecil Bonvalot

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bonvalot)

### 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, Cecil Bonvalot, November 19, 1987, camaraderie, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, Antonín Dvořák, musical recordings, sonatas, Hollywood, CA, concert tour, recreation and entertainment, money, funds, Andrea Guarneri, Bronisław Huberman, Johann Sebastian Bach, Germany, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, concerto, Ginette Neveu, Claude Debussy, Albert Sandler, Willy van den Burg, William Primrose, automobile, Arturo Toscanini

CECIL BONYALOT  
La Rochelle  
6 Miladi Farm Estate  
Longueville  
Jersey

November 19th. 1987

My dear Henri,

Many many thanks for sending me the cassette of Dvorak sonatas and Romantic pieces, together with your wonderful book "Facing the Music", and first I wish to apologise for the rather long time in acknowledging safe reception of the parcel. However, as I spoke on the phone to Sidney Stafford who is an old friend and colleague, I asked him if he would kindly telephone you and explain that I wished to have time to read the book, before writing which I have now done.

First the tape. I am very happy to have these, and beautifully played, as they are completely unfamiliar with the exception of the "Indian Canzonetta" Do you know that we first met and made acquaintance about 1934, well over fifty years ago! Apart from one or two occasional studio dates in Hollywood, which I left in 1963 to live in Europe.

YOUR BOOK. It is quite the most interesting and informative book on our ~~on the~~ subject from every angle. It is beautifully written too and most knowledgeable as well as humorous. and it is written by someone who knows the game from A to Z, so that apart from one or two amusing exaggerations it is a true picture of that so-called glamorous life !

As I was reading each chapter, there were things I wished to ask, but on reading on, I found they were all given!

I wondered if there was any corner of the globe that you had not been to, and after the feeling of responsibility of caring of the Paganini Strad and the other three instruments or "inséparables", I think you bore your shares of responsibility well, watching for "tuxedo men", for twenty years!

As far as I can make out, the publication price in the USA is \$8.95, and I wonder if you would be so kind as to have three copies sent out; one to my son who is professor of Music at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, secondly Mrs. John Pennington and thirdly a copy for Sidney Stafford (who told me he had not read it).

I have just asked my bank and they told me the rate of exchange is around \$1.80 to the pound and that I can send you a cheque in Sterling. Allowing for postage and packing, if I allow \$1 for each book, I shall ~~be~~ cover the expense. I enclose three addresses for your convenience. /

I once had two Strads and a Andrea Guarnerius and wished I had them today!

\* After I resigned (having taken Bill Flinn's place who was too busy with his "virtuous career", I played with them in 1945 and had to give up 5 or 6 years later on account my wife's sickness & the "circumstances". Acosta took my place then but the quartet broke up a year or so later. Acosta did quite well buying and selling paintings. He had his own galleries for some years but told me it wasn't him & a lot of money when he gave up the "gallery". As far as I know he still runs a Rolls & a BMW!!

With my  
Best Wishes  
I know you have  
struck the  
four stone  
years, and  
are how in  
Smulating  
the coming and  
many other  
long lived  
conductors!  
With my  
most cordial  
and  
friendly  
wishes  
Cecil

1694

The first Strad was a "Longuet" made in 1696 and later, I had one (with a Rocca scroll) while the Andreas G. was sold to the Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Bronny Gimpel. I think he probably sold it later on, at a good profit, when he was in the army. Speaking of Bronislaw Huberman I remember a memorable Bach recital he did at the Wigmore. I remember hearing how he filled the halls in Europe-Germany, he used to fill the halls. I could not understand this after I heard him play the Tschaiakowsky concerto. Perhaps I was unlucky on that day of his choice.

I suppose you heard Ginette Neveu? Unfortunately I never did on account of her untimely end, but plenty about, what a marvellous fiddler she was. Only recently I heard her in an old recording on the air - the Debussy sonata - and I realized. Anyhow, today the standard is terrific. I was interested to hear you mention Albert Sandler who was studying with you. Is that the ALBERT SANDLER who used to play at the Grand Hotel Eastbourne? I often wondered what had become of him. Your remark "These café princes were superb fiddlers".

... Also, you mention Willy Vandenburg. . . does he still smoke those stinking cigars at 9 in the morning! A real Dutchman in that way, so I expect he still does! Don't get me wrong, I am a smoker myself, (though I try and keep down now to two or three pipes in the evening. But I still remember smoking a pipe while practising, and some times I became very pale and had to stop and go to an open window. I was clearly poisoning myself and overcame the habit by restricting my smoking until after "tea-time", in other words after 6pm. Now, I must really close, but it has been nice to renew our rather what had become distant friendship. I am the only one of the London S.Q. John P. & Warwick E. (who would be centenarian today (born 1885) \*Edgardo Acosta is still alive as far as I know. He would appreciate your "book" by the way, and I expect has read it. It came out in 1980 and had a very meritorious press, as it should.

Alors, encore une fois je vous remercie de tout coeur, d'abord de votre souvenir et ensuite de vos deux envois. Je vais connaître et mieux apprécier les deux sonates et les quatre morceaux, et j'admire la beauté et chaleur du son, et du jeu de Robbins, votre partenaire.

P.S.  
The almost illegible postscript is as were a footnote, mainly about the London String Quartet which I joined in 1945. You see why I use a type-writer!  
With my most cordial and friendly wishes & thanks  
your Cecil

[[Nick Dante 7/26/17]]

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence  
Cecil Bonvalot  
Letter #2]]

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[[note: written sideways on typed letter]]

\* After I resigned (having taken Bill Primrose's place) who was too busy with his "virtuoso career", I played with them in 1945 and had to give up 5 or 6 years later on account my wife's sickness of the travelling. Acosta took my place then, but the quartet broke up a year or so later. Acosta did quite well buying and selling painting. He had his own galleries for some years but told me it saved him a lot of money when he gave up the "gallery". As far as I know he still runs a Rolls or a BMW!!

With my  
best birthday  
wishes – I  
know you have  
[[kvetched?]] the  
four score  
years, and  
are now on  
[[emulating?]]  
Toscanini and  
many other  
long lived  
conductors!  
With my  
most cordial  
and  
friendly  
wishes

Cecil

P.S.

The almost illegible postscript, is as were a Footnote, mainly about the London String Quartet which I joined in 1945.

With my most cordial and  
friendly wishes & thanks  
Yours Bonvalot

You see why I use  
a typewriter!