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Henri Temianka Correspondence

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Henri Temianka correspondence; (Mell)

Albert Mell

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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.



THE VIOLIN SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Editor of the VSA Journal 157-18 Oak Ave. Flushing, N.Y. 11355, U.S.A.
(718) 353-9039

December 3, 1992

W. Dieter Bergman, M.D.
22673 Wildwood Street
Hayward CA 94541

Dear Dr. Bergman,

Thank you for your recent letter which contained the sad news of the death of Henry Temianka. Although we never met personally, through our correspondence in reference to the printing of my article about him in the VSA Journal (Vol. XI, No. 1) I felt that we had become close friends. As you wrote, he had a unique ability to establish warm and friendly relationships with everyone he came in contact with.

My interest in Henry came as a result of familiarity with his recordings, especially those of the Paganini String Quartet, performances which he himself considered the major achievement of his long and distinguished career. My friend and colleague for many years at Queens College, the late Boris Schwarz, always spoke warmly and admiringly of Henry, both as a person and violinist.

To accompany your article, I will need photographic copies of the two documents you enclosed with your letter: His limerick and two sketches sent to you as a birthday greeting, dated July 3, 1990; and of Henry's letter to you of August 10, 1991.

At the time of the publication of my article on Henry in Vol. XI, No. 1 of the Journal, he told me that he was involved in two projects: a continuation of his memoirs, Facing the Music, and a book on violin technique. Did he ever finish the study on technique? I would very much like to publish in the Journal any completed sections of the study on technique for several reasons: as a further tribute to him; and in recognition of his mastery of violin technique and success as a teacher.

Once again, my thanks for your letter and enclosures despite the bad news. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Mell
Albert Mell