

OBITUARY

FAUSTO TORREFRANCA

Il 26 novembre 1955 si è spento a Roma l'illustre musicologo prof. Fausto Acanfora di Torrefranca.

E' stata una perdita molto dolorosa anche per l'International Folk Music Council, di cui era apprezzatissimo Socio corrispondente.

Era nato a Monteleone Calabro (oggi Vibo Valentia) nel 1883 e aveva dedicato la sua vita di studioso a ricerche severe di storia della musica. La sua rara competenza in questo campo gli meritò dapprima di dirigere la Biblioteca del Conservatorio musicale di Napoli, indi quella del Conservatorio di Milano e, successivamente, di salire alla cattedra di Storia della musica nell'Università Cattolica di Milano, dalla quale passò a quella dell'Università di Firenze, che ora ne ha pianto la perdita.

Finezza di gusto, genialità d'intuito si unirono sempre alla dottrina nei suoi lavori, pregevoli anche per eleganza di stile. Vanno segnalati fra essi: *La vita musicale dello spirito* (Torino, 1910); *Giacomo Puccini e l'opera internazionale* (Torino, 1912) e, particolarmente, *Le origini italiane del romanticismo musicale* (Torino, 1930) e *Il segreto del Quattrocento* (Milano, 1939), due opere, queste ultime, poderose ed egregie per ricchezza di contenuto e novità d'impostazione.

La sua parola riuscì sempre autorevole anche nei congressi e consessi di specialisti. Restringendoci ai tempi più recenti, ricorderemo la sua cospicua comunicazione al Congresso Internazionale Gesellschaft für Musikwissenschaft di Utrecht (1952): *Origine e significato di repicco, partita, ricercare, sprezzatura* e la sua partecipazione al I Congresso internazionale di musica mediterranea di Palermo (1954) con la magistrale prolusione: *La musica nella vita dei popoli mediterranei*, seguita dalla relazione di alto interesse su *La musica siciliana e dei popoli mediterranei nella storia della musica europea*.

Il Torrefranca non dissociò, mai lo studio della musica da quello della danza e della canzone, anzi fu storico acuto e profondo anche per la visione unitaria di queste espressioni dello spirito umano, così intimamente legate fra loro.

CARMELINA NASELLI

YNGVAR HEIKEL

On Saturday, September 1st, 1956, Mr. Yngvar Heikel died suddenly of heart failure at the age of 67. He was born in Helsingfors on April 19th, 1889.

Mr. Heikel took a great interest in folklore, especially in folk dances and national dresses, and from this point of view his death must be considered a great loss to Swedish Finland. During many years he travelled through the Swedish-speaking regions of Finland making notes of our old folk dances. Thanks to this work a lot of valuable material was saved to posterity.

Of equal importance was Mr. Heikel's contribution to the Swedish-Finnish dress customs. As a field investigator he photographed and described textiles and textile tools from all the Swedish regions. A visible result of this work is the publication of "National Costumes in Swedish Finland," of which three numbers of the proposed twelve have been published.

Mr. Heikel was requested by the Swedish Literary Society of Finland to publish the vast material he had collected about folk dances in the Swedish-speaking regions of Finland. This resulted in a great work, which has made the Swedish folk dances in Finland known all over Scandinavia.

For many years Mr. Heikel was President of the "Swedish Folk-Dance Circle of Finland," and he was also elected first Honorary President when he retired as Chairman. He had previously been appointed Honorary Member. A proof that this work for the culture of the country was also appreciated in the other Scandinavian countries is the fact that he was elected Honorary Member of the Cultural Folk-Dance Guild in Stockholm.

Mr. Heikel also held a great many other confidential posts and was charged with many commissions for various societies. He was a correspondent of the IFMC. His loss is especially heavy for the Brage-society.

Consequently from the Swedish-Finnish point of view it is a man remarkable in many ways who has passed away.

SIGURD KJÄLLMAN

BOŽIDAR ŠIROLA

Božidar Širola was born December 20th, 1889, in Žakanj, and died April 10th, 1956, in Zagreb. He got his Ph.D. in musicology in Vienna (1921), studied composition with Ivan Zajc in Zagreb, and considered himself professionally a composer. He is author of several operas and a sizeable number of choral, orchestral and chamber music works.

Here we wish to pay homage to Širola's outstanding contribution in the field of Croatian musical folklore. As director of the Zagreb Ethnographic museum he devoted much energy to melographic field work (see his *Folksongs of Žumberak*, 1942). Most valuable are his monographs on various wind instruments, from the simplest whistles made out of fresh tree bark (1932) to pipes, single and double, with and without a "bag" (1937).

Not satisfied with the archivist's pleasure of recording, classifying and analysing folk music, he published in collaboration with V. Deželić (texts) and Zdenka Sertić (illustrations) a charming volume of carols (*Koleda*, 1936). With V. Dukat he prepared for print the fifth volume of F. Š. Kuhač's classical collection of South Slavonic Folk Songs (1941) as well as V. Bersa's Dalmatian folk songs (1944). Both volumes were published by the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts of which he was a member. He worked also on L. Kuba's large collection of folk songs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, collected in 1893. The editorial work was later continued by Cvjetko Rihtman in Sarajevo, but the volume still has not left (perhaps not even reached) the printer.

Širola gave us a comprehensive portrait of the field in which he toiled for so many years in his *Croatian Folk Music* (1st ed. 1940, 2nd ed. 1942). The work deserves serious attention on the part of all students of this fascinating topic.

It is a symbol of tragedy, the shadow of which followed him throughout life, that he did not live to see in print either the two volumes of the Yugoslav Encyclopedia of Music to which he contributed much, or the paper, "Die Volksmusik der Kroaten," scheduled for publication in 1956 in Budapest in a volume of studies presented in memory of Béla Bartók.

JOSEF BROŽEK.

JOSÉ ANTONIO DONÓSTIA

The Rev. Father José Antonio Donóstia died on August 29th last in the School which the Franciscan Capuchins have established in the Basque town of Lecaroz. He was a great musician, musicologist and ethnologist, and had devoted himself for many years to the collection and study of traditional music, in particular that of the Basque country, of which he had an unrivalled knowledge. His work took him to remote villages and hamlets of this, one of the most interesting corners of Europe, ethnographically speaking, and the innumerable songs and dances collected by him from oral tradition form a body of exceptional musical value. Father Donóstia converted his erudition to good purpose in his prolific writings and lectures which covered many fields. He participated in the inaugural meeting of the IFMC in London in 1947 and had been a Correspondent of the Council from that time. He was an excellent composer. At his funeral ceremony the Agrupación Coral of Elizendo sang his "Missa pro defunctis," which is one of his most inspired and solemn works.

JOAN AMADES