

in his institute which was then in the process of formation and entrusted him with the work of the "Volkslied" Section in the collection *Deutsche Volkskunde* (Berlin and Leipzig 1926). Seemann entered into the service of this folklore research institute with the collected edition which takes into account both the text and the melody and relates the two. From that time the investigation of German folk song and of its international relations became his life's exclusive work and he dedicated forty years to it.

In numerous papers and investigations, he decisively led the development of comparative folksong research to the point of its being an important discipline in international folklore. As one who knew almost every European language, he was in a position to conduct his research and teaching activities on a truly comprehensive basis and thus to make the Freiburg folk song institute a centre of international research. His preference lay in the European folk ballad: he devoted many of his studies to Slavic folk song and its relationship to German folk song. From 1935 Erich Seemann was co-editor of the German scientific folk song publication *Deutsche Volkslieder mit ihren Melodien* which was published for the German Folk Song Archives, and which at present comprises five volumes. After the death of John Meier, Erich Seemann assumed sole direction of the Archives in 1953. He retired in 1963. His friends and colleagues, both at home and abroad, brought together for his seventy-fifth birthday a *Festschrift* containing numerous contributions to the inter-ethnic expansion of folksong together with a bibliographical summary of his scientific works (*Jahrbuch für Volksliedforschung*, Jg. 9, Berlin 1964, edited by Rolf Wilh. Brednich). Death has taken Erich Seemann away from a wealth of work and plans which comprised for the Council of Europe a *Europäischen Balladenanthologie* and a four-volume edition of *Lieder aus der ehemaligen deutschen Sprachinsel Gottsee* (in Jugoslavia). With Erich Seemann, folk song research has lost one of its most prominent representatives. His colleagues and students mourn a man who unselfishly dedicated to the service of science his far-reaching knowledge and working skill throughout his life, and whose personality will remain an example to the younger generation.

ROLF WILH. BREDNICH.

STEUART WILSON

Sir Steuart Wilson who died on December 19th, 1966 will be remembered by members of the IFMC as the Vice-Chairman of their inaugural meeting in 1947. Born in 1889, he was a musician whose lively interest ranged widely over his profession. As a singer he will be remembered as an incomparable Evangelist in the Bach Passions, for his interpretation of the music of his own age—Boughton, Elgar and Vaughan Williams, as well as of the classics, where Schubert was one of his greatest loves. In opera and oratorio and song he brought the fruits of his classically English education, Winchester and Cambridge, as well as his studies with Jean de Reszke and Sir George Henschel to serve his art. He was a translator, an organiser and the founder of The English Singers. He took part in many Festivals and sang in the British National Opera Company, who were largely responsible for the re-introduction of Mozart's operas in England. He was an able and understanding administrator in later life, working in the newly formed CEMA (later the Arts Council), the BBC, the Royal Opera House and as Principal of The Birmingham School of Music. In all these posts his understanding and care of his colleagues and their art was outstanding.

As an adjudicator—in which capacity he travelled extensively in the East—he inspired both teachers and pupils by his concern for worthy standards in their work.

Steuart Wilson served in the 1914–18 war in which he was wounded. He was by nature a fighter against all injustices, and in these battles he was a devastatingly cool and witty opponent. Handsome all his life, he became more noble in appearance as he grew older. His many friends, his colleagues and all who knew this enthusiastic, wise, turbulent and knowledgeable musician, this splendid human being, will feel that a flame has been extinguished.

URSULA VAUGHAN WILLIAMS.