

OBITUARY

PÁL JÁRDÁNYI

"Justifiably may we cast our wondering glance on this composer who divided his life between art and science. A unique phenomenon. The intellectual driving-force of the musicologist is led by the inclination to get acquainted with what exists, but that of the composer is to create that which does not yet exist. The two types of inclination belong to different intellectual states and temperaments. In Bartók, however, both came harmoniously together. One gave rise to the other, gave it stimulus. Both were nourished from the same source: folk music. To learn about Hungarian music and to place it in the sphere of higher art: this was the highest aim of his life."

It is already a year since Pál Járdányi wrote these sentences in memory of Bartók. Could he have guessed that with these words he had also characterised himself, and would his incredible modesty also have exaggerated the gulf which separated him from the so highly prized great master to whom he was paying tribute? His terrible and consuming illness as well as his pitifully early death was, for our natures, hardened with catastrophes though they may be, an immeasurable shock.

He was one of our leading scientists. Already as a young student of composition, he studied ethnography at the university. His thesis was a monograph study of the place called Kide in the Siebenbürgen. As a professor at the Music Conservatory he collaborated in the vast folk music edition of the *Corpus Musicae Popularis Hungaricae* (the musical arrangement of volumes I and IV being his own contribution); and from 1959 he devoted all his energies to the problem of the systematization of melody. The compilation of Vol. VII of the collection, as well as the planning arrangement of the following volume, still testify, after his death, to his intellectual leadership. A recapitulation of his ordered arrangement also appeared in German under the title *Ungarische Volksliedtypen* (two vols., 1964, 360 melodies with translations of the texts). The paper which he read at the IFMC Conference at Budapest in 1964 "Experiences and Results in systematizing Hungarian Folksongs," is preserved for us in the *Journal of the IFMC* (1965), Vol. XVII, part 2 (published as a special number of *Studia Musicologica*).

As well as being an artist and a scholar, Pál Járdányi was also a very complete personality. *Consummatus in brevi explevit tempora multa*.

BENJAMIN RAJECZKY.

ERICH SEEMANN

Professor Dr. Erich Seemann, former head of the German Folk Song Archives, died on May 10th, 1966 in Freiburg-im-Breisgau. Dr. Seemann's fame in folk song research spread far beyond the boundaries of Germany. This scholar, who rendered service both to the German and to the international cause of folklore and folk music research, was born in Stuttgart on January 14th, 1888. In Munich, under H. Paul, Fr. von der Leyden and Fr. Wilhelm, he studied German philology, folklore and comparative linguistics, and obtained his doctorate on the strength of a thesis on *Fabeln des Hugo von Trimberg*. After 1918, his plan matured for a scientific study of *Swäbischer Volkslieder*, with their melodies. His collecting activities and the study of sources linked with them brought Erich Seemann in contact with the founding of the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv in Freiburg. John Meier kept the promising scientist