

## Leopold Godowsky, Noted Pianist, Dies

**L**EOPOLD GODOWSKY, one of the foremost pianists of the time until his partial retirement in 1922, died in the Lenox Hospital, New York, on the morning of Nov. 21. He had undergone an operation on the previous Wednesday and had failed to rally. He was in his sixty-ninth year.

Mr. Godowsky was born in Wilna, then a part of Russia, on Feb. 13, 1870, the son of a physician. At the age of three he had already begun to show signs of musical ability and at seven, he had progressed so far as to make attempts at composition. Some of these early works he re-arranged in later years.

His debut as a pianist was made in Wilna at the age of nine, after only two years of study, and with such success that a tour of Germany and Russia was immediately arranged. When only eleven, his ability brought him to the notice of a wealthy banker at Königsberg, and he was sent to the Berlin Hochschule where he studied with Bargiel and Rudorff for four years.

In 1884, he came to the United States for the first time, appearing in concert companies with Clara Louise Kellogg and Emma Thursby. He also toured with the violinist, Ovide Musin. In 1887, he returned to Europe and was a pupil of Saint-Saëns until 1890. During that period he made frequent concert appearances, playing in London for the first time in 1888. On this visit he gave a command performance before the British Court. In 1891, he made a second American tour, and in 1894 came again to America as head of the Broad Street Conservatory in Philadelphia. The following year he went to Chicago as head of the Chicago Conservatory. He also made concert tours during these years. In 1900, he returned to Europe, settling in Berlin. His first appearance as a concert pianist there after his return, was on Dec. 6, 1900, and he was hailed as one of the leading pianists of the day and was compelled at once to give five more concerts. He made Berlin his headquarters, attracting a large class of talented pupils and also made extensive tours.

In 1909, he went to Vienna as director of the piano master school of the Akademie der Tonkunst, remaining for three years, then returning to the United States, later making tours, not only in this country and Europe, but also the Far East. About this time he published a number of his works,



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Leopold Godowsky

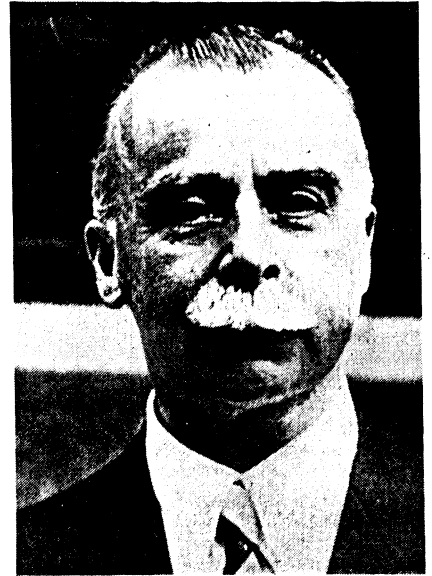
'Renaissance', a series of twenty-four pieces; 'Walzermasken' and the 'Triakontameron', a series of thirty pieces, numerous transcriptions and arrangements, some of which, such as the Chopin Studies and Waltzes, he elaborated to a formidable height of difficulty. There were also a sonata and many original piano works in smaller forms. Important pedagogical works were the Progressive Series of Piano Lessons.

He retired definitely from public life in 1930, when a paralytic stroke, suffered in London, made his right hand useless, but he continued to play and to write compositions for the left hand alone. His grief at the death in 1933 of his wife, the former Frieda Saxe of New York, whom he had married in 1891, resulted in even more strict self-enforcement of his rule not to take part in public life, but he continued his work in composition.

Mr. Godowsky is survived by two daughters and one son, Mrs. David Saperton, wife of the violinist; Dagmar Godowsky, formerly an actress, and Leopold, Jr. Another son, Gordon, died in 1932.

Mackay was a member of the board of directors and on the merging of this orchestra with the New York Philharmonic in 1921, he became chairman of the board of the directors of the Philharmonic Society, a newly created position, since previously there had been only a president. He held this position also until his death. A director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he was responsible in part for the maintenance of the free symphony concerts given there every winter under the baton of David Mannes.

More important, however, than any of his other contributions to the musical life of New York, was Mr. Mackay's part in bringing Toscanini as conductor to the Philharmonic-Symphony in 1925. In that year, at his personal expense, he sent an emissary to Italy for this purpose. There had been rumors of a disagreement between Toscanini, then general director of La



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Clarence H. Mackay

Scala in Milan, and the Fascist government. This had become known in America, hence Mr. Mackay's mission. Although never announced officially by the Philharmonic-Symphony, it was rumored that a portion of the very generous sum paid to the Italian conductor was met by Mr. Mackay personally, and it has also been said that the deficit of the orchestra's European tour in 1930 was largely born by him.

Mr. Mackay's first wife was Katherine Alexander Duer of New York, whom he married in 1898, and immediately began the construction of the replica of a French Renaissance chateau, which was completed two years later and became the scene of many brilliant entertainments. The marriage was terminated by divorce in Paris in 1914. Since he was a Roman Catholic, Mr. Mackay was unable to re-marry until the death of his former wife, which occurred in 1930. On July 18, 1931, he married Miss Case. The marriage of his daughter Ellin to Irving Berlin, the composer of popular songs, which took place in 1926, caused an estrangement between Mr. Mackay and his daughter, but this was made up at the time of the birth of a son to the young couple.

In 1926, he was awarded a gold medal by the National Institute of Social Science for distinguished social service in developing musical art and the maintaining of high musical standards. Besides numerous decorations bestowed upon him by foreign governments, he had been made a Doctor of Music by New York University.

Funeral services were held in St. Patrick's Cathedral on the morning of Nov. 16.

In tribute to the memory of Mr. Mackay, the communications system of the Postal Telegraph and Cable Corporation was silenced for one minute beginning at 9:30 A. M., before the mass began. For the sixty seconds until 9:31 o'clock cables and wires running two-thirds of the distance around the world, from Paris to Shanghai, were silent.

Burial was in the family mausoleum in Greenwood Cemetery.

## Clarence Mackay, Music Patron, Dead

**C**LARENCE H. MACKAY, for many years a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Opera, chairman of the board of directors of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony and of the board of the Postal Telegraph and Cable Corporation, died at his home in New York on the evening of Nov. 12, in his sixty-fifth year. He had been in ill health since an emergency operation for appendicitis which he underwent last winter, and this had been aggravated by a recent throat affection. His widow, the former Anna Case, once a member of the Metropolitan Opera, and two of his three children by his first marriage, Mrs. Irving Berlin and John W. Mackay, were with him at the time of his death.

Mr. Mackay was born in San Francisco on April 17, 1874, the son of John William Mackay, an Irish immigrant, whose career was one of the great American financial romances. A "Forty-niner," he went to Virginia City, Nevada, after the discovery of the Comstock Lode. His own discovery, the Big Bonanza mine in 1872, brought his spectacular rise to riches as the shares in the company rose rapidly from fifteen cents to \$1,850. The mine is said to have yielded \$300,000,000 in six years. When the elder Mackay came to New York a few years later, his income was rated at \$800,000 a month.

Clarence Mackay received his early education at home and was sent later to Vau-

giray College at Villebon near Paris, and Beaumont College, Windsor, England. In 1894, he entered the employ of the Commercial Cable Company which his father had established with James Gordon Bennett. Two years later he was made president of the American Forcite Powder Manufacturing Company, and in 1896 a director of the Postal Telegraph Company and the Commercial Cable Company. In 1897, he was elected vice-president of both organizations. A decade later he fulfilled a dream of his father's by constructing the first cable between the United States and the Far East, at a cost of \$9,000,000. In 1907, he also laid a cable to Cuba, and two additional trans-atlantic cables via the Azores and Ireland.

### Chairman of Philharmonic

Mr. Mackay's interest in music was both deep and practical and had extended back for a number of years. He was made a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Opera more than twenty years ago and remained on the board until his death. In 1913, he was also a member of the board of directors of the Century Opera Company which gave opera for two years at the re-named New Theatre, of which, in its original capacity as a home for both drama and opera, he had been a director since its opening in 1909.

When the National Symphony was established in the Spring of 1919, Mr.