

22 October 1986

Bruno Walter papers 1986-6

Offered to us by Irene Ben-Tchavtchavadze, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], 1986. Inspected by HK, Oct. 22  
and, after consultation with Michael Hood, offered [REDACTED]  
which she accepted.

She obtained the papers as a gift from Leo Brückner whose  
sister, Mrs. KÜchler, spent her years after World War II  
living with Leo Schlesinger, the brother of Bruno Walter,  
in Sweden (Stockholm).

Leo Schlesinger, to whom most of the letters are addressed,  
died in Sweden in 1952. Mrs. KÜchler had been in a Nazi  
concentration camp but survived. She is also dead now.

Leo Brückner's wife came from Riga, Latvia, like Mrs.  
Ben-Tchavtchavadze. He came from Czechoslovakia.

Leo Schlesinger and his sister Emma had been in exile in  
Sweden since Bruno Walter was able to plead on their behalf  
with a Swedish official he met.

Mrs. B-T came to Canada in the 1950s because her uncle,  
Constantin Klimoff, had come to Canada in 1948 to teach  
music at the Séminaire in Trois-Rivières. A year later he  
went to Laval, but also taught at the Ursuline convent, according  
to Mrs. B-T. He had been recommended by N. Medtner who was  
a friend of the family, as was Rachmaninoff. Mrs. B-T  
remembers Medtner.

She thinks her uncle had Medtner letters and will try to  
find out whether they survive. Her uncle had a brother in  
Montreal who apparently is still alive, a painter. He may  
have these letters. If so, she will make us a present.

The papers bought on 22 Oct. 1986 include 6 photos (one of  
which is a duplicate), 14 letters by Bruno Walter (dated  
1893-1952), 4 by the choral conductor Bruno Kittel (dated  
1926-1933), 1 postcard by Wilhelm Rode, a singer, one letter  
by Hans Freudenthal from Norway to Leo Schlesinger, the  
photocopy of one programme, a some typed press notices for  
a violinist called Endre Wolf, 1951.

Helmut Kallmann

P.S. From Walter's autobiography it is obvious that the  
Schlesinger children, in chronological order, were Leo -  
Bruno - Emma.

P.P.S. On 4 November 1986 Mrs. B-T presented another 14 photos,  
mostly of Leo Schlesinger and his friends