

DREHER CLEVELAND OHIO

Appointed Steinway Dealer 18 Feb, 1896 according to the diary of William Steinway.

Business was Sold to Lyon & Healy (Chicago) in 1928 and closed in the depression. We then appointed Halle Bros., a Dept. store, now also gone.

Harry Valentine was trained by Dreher, and stayed with the Steinway dealers till he died.

Ray schirring was another old timer with Halle.

RS

11/3/97

585 Mitteilungen (Hamburg) old Series

Has following about U.S. Dealers

46 August 1921 William H Daniels 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

53 March 1922 Charles F Cluett

53 March 1922 Wagner & Levien, Mexico City. Photo of store. Text says 6 branches in Mexico, sole Agency for Steinway for 65 years. Trautvetter, who I think was our employee, "Two oldest sons are head of W & L. oldest had 5 years in our factory."

#60 Oct 1922 Portrait E. H. Droop. Says Droop's father joined Metzgerott our dealer, and on latter's death took our agency. Eddie started 1886.

77 March 1924 Edmund Graun portrait

121 Nov 1927 Henry Dreher & Uncle Bill in front

Henry Z. Steinway  
109 West 57  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Ruth van Buskirk

You must have been with Harry Valentine before the business was sold to Halle Brothers, which is before my time. I started in the business in 1937. Since then Halle has been sold, and eventually closed up. That seems to be the story of the piano business.

Roman de Majewski did not have any children. Who the lecturer on Santa Sophia was I can not figure out. Roman had a cousin Tommy, also with no children, and some nieces and nephews in Poland. His direct heir is a very nice lady in England - born in Poland and now a British subject. Her name is Krystina Dutczinska and she lives at 22 Bramhan Gardens, London, England. I am sure she would be glad to hear from you.

I don't remember subscribing to Musica Aeterna - most of my active concert going (now pretty much over) was involved with piano concerts, as we were always in close contact with them.

Very best wishes -

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry Z. Steinway". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, horizontal flourish at the bottom.



Miss Ruth Van Buskirk

23-W. "D" St.

Newton, N.C., 28658

704-465-3856

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Steinway:

Recently a N.Y.C. friend of mine forwarded a clipping of ~~the~~ August 30, 1989, concerning the death of your brother John. Since his age was listed a "72", I exclaimed "Why he is the generation of my two nieces!" And this further explains a phrase I remember from my ten years as secretary to Harry Valentine, the Steinway dealer in Cleveland for many years. "I remember the jolly H.V. from my childhood." Yes, I translated Harry Valentine's business English dictation into his probable American meaning. For a quick wit, as he was, that dictation was amazing. "Miss Van, do you really understand Mark?" "No, I just listen real hard, and decide later what he meant."

I believe I met your father briefly when in N.Y.C. on other business during a long weekend from "D.C." I saw "Fitz Victor" in the distance, but R. J. de Majewski was available. That was before



(2)

The War II in Europe broke out, but your father seemed to expect it.

I believe that I was seated, one season of the Musica Eterna Concerts in the gallery next to you two. I remember a vivacious young brunette and a gentleman with a marvellously musical "brevisimo". I did not ever mention a former Steinway connection, as I was pursuing artistic goals put off by fear in the '20s and was enjoying the music far too much to reminisce <sup>esp?</sup>.

Now, I'm coming to "The Hook" as Valentine would say. Can you and would be kind enough to provide the <sup>name of</sup> spelling, and address of Roman Joseph de Majewski's son? It seems to me he lectured on restoration of "Santa Sophia" in Istanbul at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I attended this lecture but, frankly, I don't remember whether it was being restored as a Greek Catholic Church or as an Islamic Monument. I have a feeling he was called "Lawrence Majewski" as well.

In 1980 I addressed an Enquiry from Newton, N.C., to John Steinway about R. J. de Majewski, "Ambassador from Steinway & Sons" (another Valentine Terminology) and was informed that he had recently died at (88), after a long illness. I was (80) at the time and still miraculously healthy.



(3)

However, in the meantime, I have become less and less healthy and more and more convinced that I'm now a pretty good painter — a water colorist with imagination, but not any interest in abstract painting. It has to be a picture I can name, before I put finishing touches on it — otherwise it's just a piece of colored paper. R.J. dismissed some of the things I showed him in Cleveland as "happy accidents," and I believed him at the time, because I felt the same way. They were not! The gift was there, but not instantly and always available.

One in particular I would like to give to "Laurence Majewski" — a water-color. There also is an oil (unfinished) looking down from the Met's recital gallery on a solo violinist. My particular interest in this memory sketch was the shadows under the Steinway grand — an interesting variety, and a variety of headgear worn by ~~auditors~~ auditors on the first row. Don't ask me whether it was first row, main floor, or first row gallery — probably the latter. This I would like to give to you <sup>two</sup> who undoubtedly shared the view with me.

I am actively trying to dispose of my library (remains), and my paintings & never exhibited in N.Y. hence of no value, except intrinsic & before entering a home or death & whichever comes first.



(4)

I would be very grateful for your reply.  
And I wish to extend belated sympathy in the death of John. I heard his speech (taped I presume) over the radio when he gave Paderevski's grand to the Smithsonian. I noted then he had a wonderful speaking voice!

I spent six weeks in Italy in the early summer of 1970 and in Florence's principal museum I viewed one of the paintings. I ~~went~~ <sup>went</sup> to Europe to see. I turned to a young boy and asked him if he spoke English. He did — and of that same wonderful quality. Did John have a son? It seemed to me it might be a familial voice rather than of a school or a town influence. No accent, just beautifully enunciated English speech. I heard a woman, once, in theater waiting line, with such a voice; and she was a very white black woman!

Well, here I am, forgetting the postman comes only once a day.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Van Duskirk