

GUSTAV DANNREUTHER

1853 - 1923

It becomes my sad duty to bring to the attention of the Faculty the death of Mr. Dannreuther on Wednesday, December 19, from an attack of pneumonia. He had been in his usual health the previous Friday when he made his last teaching visit to the college and was ill in all but three days.

Mr. Dannreuther was a musician of international reputation. Born (July 21, 1853) in Cincinnati, Ohio, he finished his musical studies at the Hochschule fur Musik, Berlin, Germany, under Joachim and de Ahne, the two most celebrated German violin virtuosos and teachers of that time. He began his professional life in London, where his elder brother, Edward, was professor at the Royal College of Music. In 1877 he returned to America, and from then he has taken a notable place in the cultivation of the taste for chamber music in this country, having been a member of the Mendelssohn Quintette Club in Boston, the leader of the Philharmonic Club of Buffalo, the founder and leader of the New York Beethoven String Quartette, to which after a few years, he gave his own name and which played a prominent part in the musical life of the city until it disbanded in 1917. He was also a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra during its first years, and after he came to New York was at the first desk of the Philharmonic Orchestra for many years.

His first appearance at Vassar was on January 19, 1887, as leader of the Beethoven String Quartette, and nearly every year after that he visited the college either as solo performer or as a member of his quartette or some group of Chamber musicians. The connection with the college thus happily begun culminated in 1906 when he entered the department of music as teacher of violin, a position he held until his death.

As a teacher he was an enthusiastic disciple of the school of Joachim, faithful and painstaking, fond of his pupils and spending freely of time and energy in their behalf. He made valuable contributions to the literature of violin teaching. His students recognized the exceptional value of his instruction as well as the charm of his manner and the breadth of his culture.

GUSTAV DANNREUTHER (Continued)

His deep interest in Vassar was shown by the gift, in 1910, of his library of Chamber Music, with only the proviso that he should retain in his possession whatever music he desired to use until his death.

It is therefore to be expected that to the several

thousand pieces already on our shelves, there will now be made additions and that the Dannreuther Library of Chamber Music will serve to link permanently his name with the college to which he gave so much of his spirit.

George C. Gow

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